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*A. C. Chappell.*



HISTORY  
OF  
Buchanan County  
IOWA  
And Its People

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By  
HARRY CHURCH and KATHARYN JOELLA CHAPPELL

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ILLUSTRATED

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VOLUME I

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CHICAGO  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY  
1914

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*Katharyn J. Chappell.*

## FOREWORD

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To those subscribers who have made this volume possible through their cooperation and interest and financial support, is this book dedicated, if not of so much value to themselves surely of inestimable value to their progeny, who will appreciate their ancestors' forethought in establishing this record of facts for them.

And to those who have so ably assisted in various ways by furnishing data not otherwise obtainable, to both the Bulletin Journal and Conservative who have kindly loaned us their newspaper files and furnished us valuable data, to Mr. E. Little who loaned us those valuable old Guardian files, the only files in existence prior to 1870, and to those who have written us short sketches, we wish here publicly to express our gratitude. If we have failed to acknowledge any assistance which we have received, let those to whom we are especially indebted be assured that the omission is not due to any lack of appreciation. Besides this, we wish to acknowledge that we are not satisfied with this effort, possibly such a state of animus satisfactus could never be reached—but inadequate time to do some subjects justice is one vital excuse for us.

In explanation of the difference in length of the various histories of societies, lodges and churches we wish to say that it was not determined by their respective importance but by the accessibility of data. It seemed impossible in the limited time given for the completion of this work to collect all the facts.

Another reason is that we did not have the privilege of writing the township histories, and as no two peoples' viewpoints are the same in regard to essentials, and details, hence the difference in expression. A professional historian has credit for the township histories (as much of the early history is connected with the various townships, it is compiled in the general subjects, as far as possible).

Another thing which makes the writing of Buchanan County History more difficult than most is that thirty-three years have elapsed since one was written, which is at least fifteen years more than customary—and too, the fact that for a lapse of several years there are no newspaper files to consult to substantiate facts—they having been destroyed in the big fire of 1874. Begging these palpable excuses for your consideration and hoping that even a small per cent of the pleasure and profit of delving in these old records may be afforded the reader as it has the writers, we herewith submit for your perusal and edification Buchanan County History.







Edgar E. Brentnall



Dr. A. G. Shellito



A. P. Burrhus



M. W. Harmon



John Elliott



C. H. Jakway



Stewart Beatty



W. G. Kiefer



B. F. Stoddard



W. M. Higbee

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## INTRODUCTION

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History, properly speaking, is a systematic, written record of past events, particularly of those affecting a nation, institution, science, or art and usually connected with a philosophical reason of their causes; a true story as distinguished from a romance, distinguished also from annals which relate simply the facts and events of each year in strict chronological order; from biography which is a record of a person's life and from memoir which is history composed from personal experience, observation, and memory. "Histories are as perfect as the historian is wise and is gifted with an eye and a soul."—Carlyle.

But this history is to be a compilation of all the different phases of history connected with both the individual and the physical features of this county.

And it will be our earnest endeavor to make it as authentic as possible, to substantiate all that has been written in previous county histories and add to, all that we deem important or of interest in the development of this county since the last history was written.

Undoubtedly mistakes will occur owing either to unavailable data, or to the erroneous perspective of individuals, it being impossible for any two persons to view happenings exactly alike, and another barrier in the way of writing local history is, that too little regard is paid to what might seem of minor importance, at the time, but which, in reality, may prove to be of vital moment in shaping the destiny of a whole community, or even that of a nation.

Just as a fallen tree trunk, a broken sod, or an inconsequential stone may turn the course of a mighty river, so too, may some trifling incident change all following events.

It is the little things that make up the sum of life, no more so with the individual than with a nation.

Too often we only take cognizance of the big results, losing sight of the small happenings that constituted the real cause. It seems the most interesting phase of historical research to delve into those hidden personal histories of the pioneers and to thread out the motives for their courageous wanderings. The "why fores," so imbedded with all the yearnings, desires, ambitions, and dreams of our forefathers are fully as attractive to those who are somewhat dreamers themselves, as the realities of life. What mirage could have prompted that adventurous young stripling to leave all his kindred, his associates, the pleasures and comforts of an eastern home, to brave the hardships and privations of this new wilderness and sparsely settled territory? What dreams of fortune to urge him to risk his all to get "a start in the world," with always

a haunting vision of a girl to goad him on to indefatigable labor? What roving spirit to entice the family man to sell out, and with his young wife and children in the covered wagon, face all dangers of the wild unknown, to try new lands and build a new home?

It is not strange when a sensational find is discovered that thousands upon thousands should rush in to seek their fortunes, there is something alluring, spectacular, and romantic connected with, say, the discovery of gold such as in California in 1849 and in Alaska in the '90s, but it does seem unaccountable in many instances that the pioneers should sacrifice so much and risk even their lives for but "a home in some vast wilderness," even though it were a virgin paradise. Nothing but the love of adventure, or desire of wealth could have prompted them.

Fact is stranger than fiction and we have only to read the tales of the early pioneers of any time or place to be convinced of this. The minor little events, the strange coincidences, and unforeseen happenings prove to be the very pivot upon which all subsequent affairs revolve and the ultimate climaxes all woven together as intricately as the most elaborate Oriental design. One incident, as but a thread, yet that one thread may outlive a complete pattern. So, with our lives, does it matter—does it count the little rules, the little touches with other lives, may not be of any particular importance, yet they all tend to either smooth off or roughen a career.

A history of a county, although not of great scope, is just as important a factor in the making of a National history or molding of American citizenship as any state history and often furnishes the material for much of the National history. Characters with only a local reputation may afterwards win National fame and the details of their early life might be available only in a county history.

We cannot look into the future and see our own consequence, or lack of it, but we may feel assured that no matter how small and inconsequential we may be we leave behind us some influence (whether good or bad depends on us) but nevertheless a memory in the mind of man which cannot be effaced. Some one remembers—and if the life is one of public interest history makes room for it. No life is crowded out of history but time and space in a publication of this kind prevents the recording of any but happenings which had some real significance with county history.

The history of a county, state, Government, war, or politics cannot be separated from the individuals, nor from the territory wherein they occur. And just so, the individual is dependant upon his environment, to what extent is still a question of argument, but home and associates certainly are great factors in determining the life of an individual, perhaps even more than heredity.

And surely this new and unexplored country afforded a wonderful opportunity for the development of those hardy and tenacious hereditary qualities of this county's pioneers. The pioneers of the early days are much the same the world over, it would seem that they were particularly endowed by a Divine Providence with a superabundant amount of strength and energy to withstand the hardships and discouragements, which engulf the conquering of a new land. It is a question if we, who live in these latter days and are weakened by higher civilization, could endure such toil and privations but it is a test which can

never be made for there is no spot so far, nowadays, in this land of ours, but that more of luxury and comfort reaches it than our ancestors ever dreamed.

And the same spirit of adventure and longing for "green hills far away," possesses some of the young of today—those who venture far from home and even into foreign countries as the great immigration of landseekers who crossed the borders into Canada during the past few years proves, and this spirit is manifest in the progeny of some of the early pioneers of this county when we consider all the changes that have been wrought within the past ten years, right within this small area.

Farms which have been kept in families for two or three generations have now passed into the hands of strangers; farmers from across the river, coming from the too expensive lands of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and states farther east to these rolling prairies of Iowa where land is generally cheaper, better and safer. Our farmers are seeking homes farther west and hundreds of them took up land in Canada, according to the last census which explains the fact of the falling off of the state's population. The newspapers all over the state have written all sorts of editorials, conjectures, and reasons for this, some accounting for it, to the high price of land, some to high rents, high taxes, climate, increase in size of cultivated farms, and not a few to the great prosperity of our farmers which last might seem a very good reason from the fact that people nowadays are just beginning to know how to live and enjoy life, to use to the best purpose the well earned recompense of their hard labor and self denial—not alone of their own but their ancestors. Our people live well with what would have been luxury and rank extravagance to their parents in actual necessities and ordinary commodities to them; they give their children the best educational advantages; college education and degrees in musical, fine arts and sciences are no longer a rare thing among our young people. They travel as a matter of course, and attend all available, profitable and pleasurable entertainments, they own their autos, their piano players and talking machines, and with it all, we truly believe, are not as satisfied as were the pioneers of the early days. Life is too complicated and too strenuous and with prosperity always comes a spirit of unrest—a desire for constant change and amusement, so it would seem highly probable that this very state of affairs had wrought the change among our formerly home staying and contented populace. History is being made so fast in these latter days that it keeps the chronicler and the newspapers busy recording the changes, and every year seems to increase the number.

Buchanan while it may not have made quite as important history as some other counties of the state, yet presumably she has done her share compared with the length of time of her settlement, having practically been an undiscovered country in 1840 when other counties, such as Dubuque and Delaware were already filled with settlers and the land under cultivation.

People, generally speaking and especially in the present strenuous times, seem to greatly underestimate the value of historical knowledge. They are very little concerned with the causes, it is the effect that they are interested in. They seem to take for granted and accept as a matter of fact all the pleasures and conveniences of modern life, forgetting that everything that we now enjoy was obtained only through struggle and sacrifice and toil, and

the very necessities of our lives were either undreamed of, or the extreme luxuries of our ancestors.

The only way to appreciate or even know of these changes is to read of the pioneer life in histories or by personal interviews with those early pioneers and the latter opportunity is fast slipping away. The pioneer will in the not far distant future be as great a curiosity as the Indian is in the streets of a great metropolis. And the details and descriptions of his life and events should be kept both for the historical value and as examples of thrift and energy that might be an influence and inspiration to the young.

These pioneers who endured the perils and hardships of frontier life, to establish civilization and an unknown wilderness, a noble, enterprising class of men, are entitled to monuments if not of granite and marble, of praise and emulation.

Many of these receive their just recompense from a grateful people if they have reached the heights but many more equally deserving through force of circumstances can never reach. To these we dedicate the county histories. In them is a record of their deeds of public service and heroism. And mayhap from this lowly niche in history's page they will climb to exalted heights.

The county history has a place for all, and it has been an endeavor not to omit a name that deserves mention. To say that we have accomplished this is beyond our expectations, for through seventy-two years since Buchanan County saw its first white settlers is no small task, and often the unrecorded and inaccessible facts are the ones which deserve the worthy place. To those subscribers of county histories can be accredited the collecting and writing of these facts, for without their assistance and cooperation no effort to write these histories would be made, and as the average demand of such works is small, the publishing is always a venture.

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# HISTORY OF BUCHANAN COUNTY

## CHAPTER I

### GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

#### THE GLACIAL EPOCH—ORIGIN OF THE PRAIRIES

The territory now comprising Buchanan County, like that of the whole state and in fact the great Mississippi Valley, was submerged beneath the sea, and marine forms of animals and plants were its only occupants, and during all those countless ages of submergence the sedimentary strata of these rich prairie lands and the vast underlying bed of rock were being formed at the sea bottom. The duration of this period of formation is absolutely incomprehensible even to those scientists who deal in figures of incalculable size to ordinary individuals. At this indefinite and remote age a small portion of Northeastern Iowa rose above the sea, while all the great region south and west still lay buried beneath the engulfing waters of that vast sea. It gradually recedes to the southward and the whole surface of our state was visible above the waters. Odd shaped fishes and a species of fern marked the highest degree reached in the evolution of animal and plant life at that time, but later vegetation and animal life appear. Again waters cover the northwestern part of the state and again recede never to return and the water drain to the ocean forming practically the same great river courses through the oozing sediment which the discoverers ages later named the Mississippi and the Missouri.

The sun and wind finally dried the earth's surface and forests and rank vegetation again appeared, animal life flourished and all the conditions are favorable for the advent of man but there are no evidences of his existence on the earth at this period.

This state was like a tropical garden, where cypress, magnolia, cinnamon, fig and palm grew in a jungle-like profusion, tropical birds sang in the forests and huge reptiles crawled about in the rank vegetation and swamps. The drainage of the state must have been much the same as now, although the altitude was several hundred feet lower.

This luxuriance of a tropical climate prevailed for many ages then a change was perceptible; the intense heat of the long summer days was tempered by refreshing breezes and the nights became delightfully cool. Then a winter season appeared which gradually became longer and colder, snowstorms came and piercing winds swept over plain and forest, tropical plants succumbed to early frosts, ice formed in lakes and streams, the more hardy animals sought the shelter of wooded ravines and deep gorges. Year after year the cold intensified, the snow fell deeper and deeper and piled to terrific heights, the earth became frozen to great depths, the summers became too short and cold to melt it, so that finally all animal and vegetable life disappeared. The pressure of mountains of snow and percolating rains converted the mass into a solid sheet

of glacier ice, that not only covered nearly all of Iowa but reached over the northern half of North America.

This vast ice tract extended south to a latitude some below that of St. Louis. It began slowly moving outward from the center of accumulation, grinding over the underlying rocks, crushing them into the finest powder. Fragments of enormous size were frequently caught in the floes and swept forward and piled in tumbled masses. All the boulders of crystal like rock which we find strewn throughout our state were carried from their native ledges in British America by these herculean ice floes that successively overflowed its surface. Then another climatic change came; slowly the ice began to melt, rivers gradually formed carrying on their turbid waters the soil made by the grinding ice, which was deposited over the surface of the state and we are deeply indebted to these glaciers and their action that have contributed to such a great degree in the formation of our magnificent state. Some parts of the state are in what is known as the Driftless Area.

Before the glacial period, the surface had been earved into an intricate systems of hills and valleys; there were narrow gorges, hundreds of feet deep, and rugged, rocky cliffs and isolated buttes corresponding in height with the depths of the valleys, a fine example of which we see at the Devil's Backbone, and also in Allamakee, parts of Jackson, Dubuque, Clayton, Fayette and Winneshiok counties. A person living, say in Buchanan County, on the drift covered, rolling prairie land is much surprised when he goes to the driftless part of the state, to note the great difference in the topography. The principal streams in those parts flow through narrow valleys, or gorges, that measure from their summits six hundred feet or more in depth. These cliffs rise almost vertically from three to four hundred feet and then the land makes a gradual rise to their summit, some three, four or five miles back from the stream. These canyons are intersected with tributary streams, and these again with others of lesser depth, until the entire surface of the land is all cut up and a quarter section of level land would be a curiosity. This is a fair sample of what Iowa would have been had it not been ground and plained and leveled by the glaiers.

This driftless area lies just north and east of Buchanan County and it is a miracle of Nature that she escaped it, for although it is much more scenic, it is not as conducive to farming, at least on an extensive scale, as the rolling prairie. The soil deposit in Iowa is of different depths, as is also the underlaid rocks, and in boring for water the great unevenness in both is shown. In Buchanan water is easily obtained at a depth of from ten to twenty-five feet.

Our soil, formed by the grinding, pulverizing glacial process from granites of British America and Northern Minnesota and the limestones and shales of more southern regions, and mixed with infinite care and precision and in exactly the right proportions, and deposited at our very door, so to speak, an ideal soil for both vegetation and cultivation. This rich material is not oxidized or leached, but retains the carbonates and other soluble constituents that contribute so largely to the growth of plants; its physical condition is ideal, rendering it porous, facilitating the distribution of moisture and likewise drainage, and thus was the beginning of these rich fertile prairies; and then for centuries thereafter, all the different forces of Nature, organic, physical and chemical, have contributed to making it the virgin soil which the explorers and early settlers

found. The growth and decay of vegetation, and the unremitting assistance of burrowing animals, such as pocket gophers, and even the earthworm, is of inestimable value in pulverizing, mellowing and enriching the soil until now we have almost a perfect condition; the most easily cultivated and highly productive soils in the whole country.

Soils are everywhere the products of rock disintegration, and so the quality of the soils in any locality must necessarily be determined, in a great measure, by the kind of rock from which they were derived. Then, considering this, every layer, from the very oldest rocks of the Mississippi Valley and every later formation, has contributed its quota of materials toward making the present fine condition, and the history of Iowa's soils, therefore, embraces every stage of geological development, and almost every variety of soil. Buchanan soil is almost uniformly good.

We have told something as to the geological formation of these Iowa prairies, but there is another question quite as interesting and more puzzling. It has been the subject of scientific investigation for many years to determine the real causes which have produced the great treeless plains of the Mississippi Valley. East of Ohio prairies are unknown, but as we go westward they increase in number and size. In Western Indiana and from there to the Rocky Mountains, west and north, prairies prevail, although groves are often seen, and timber generally borders the lakes and streams. Iowa is included in this vast prairie land.

In Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, the prairies are quite level, while in Iowa they are quite rolling, affording fine surface drainage. This absence of trees on the prairies is, by some authorities, attributed to the physical character of the soil, and especially its exceeding fineness which is averse to the growth of anything but a superficial vegetation, and an insuperable barrier to the necessary access of air to the roots of deeply rooted vegetation. Other authorities claim that the treeless prairies are the result of unnatural causes not due to the influence of the climate, nor the character or composition of the soil, nor to the character of any of the underlying formations, but to autumnal fires, which have left the prairies treeless, and strangely enough we do find them on every kind of a surface, level, hilly, and broken, and every variety of a soil, alluvial, drift and lacustral, and sometimes a single prairie whose surface includes all these varieties, portions of which may be sandy, gravelly, clayey or loamy, as are right here in Buchanan County. An encyclopedia article on this subject concludes that the continuous growth of the same species of plants upon the same soil with the excrements from the roots and the animal accumulation of their own dead foliage and stalks, become poisonous to the particular species though perfectly nutritious to plants of different species. Especially is this noticeable with trees which eventually become sickly and die, then forest fires rage through those sickly and dead places, and utterly destroy the remnant of vegetation; after these autumnal forest fires, rank weeds and grasses would grow and they in turn would ripen and dry and be consumed by fire, and thus with not enough grass eating animals to feed down this luxuriant growth of wild prairie grass the same conditions continued until the qualities of the soil that had become noxious to trees had been assimilated and in Nature's rule of "rotation of crops," the soil was again fitted for their growth. Trees were beginning

to resume possession of the prairies when the settlement began, and the increase of the buffalo and other grass eating animals had decreased the inflammable material for those ruinous autumnal fires. And this seems a very plausible solution to this interesting question, especially since we have the records of the pioneers as to the awful destruction and unquenchableness of the fires that used to sweep through the prairies at an early day, and which they had to fight vigorously with every known means. But when we remember that the wild prairie grass was so thick in some places one could scarcely separate it (enough to see the earth beneath) and so long that it would switch a man on horseback in the face, the intensity and rapaciousness of these fires are not to be wondered at.

Two Independence gentlemen, Mr. E. B. Older and Dr. S. Deering, though not professional scientists, found time, in the midst of active business pursuits, to make themselves familiar with the science of geology in general and of Buchanan County in particular, and to them are we indebted for much of the data herein. Mr. Older gave the information in regard to the general geological features of the county, while Mr. Deering gave a fine account of the principal fossils found here.

Both of these men, now long since gone to their eternal reward, were highly respected and prominent citizens of Independence for many years, and were men of wide knowledge and experience.

Mr. Deering had at one time, about the year 1877, discovered some dark shale in a fine stone quarry east of town and the apprehension was that they might find coal underneath. He interested and assisted the state geologist, Professor Calvin, who made a thorough examination and in his report gave Mr. Deering credit as the discoverer of several new and interesting species of shales.

The common limestone which underlies the greater portion of Buchanan County, lines some of the river beds and banks, and creeps out in numerous places is what is known as Devonian rocks. About one-fourth of the county on the east and northeast is underlaid by the Upper Silurian. Both of these kinds of rock are composed largely of different varieties of limestone, mixed with shale. Many fine specimens of the Devonian rocks are found along the Wapsie and Otter Creek, and although they are easily quarried, they are not valuable for building stone, being too easily crumbled and too irregular, while the Upper Silurian is excellent for building purposes and formerly was used almost entirely for foundations which have been substituted in late years with cement blocks. Buchanan is said to be one of the richest counties in the state in fossils of the Devonian Age. The old quarry half a mile east of Independence, near the H. T. Lynch home, was noted for its rare fossil shells and was visited by many paleontologists from abroad, and at that time, Mr. Deering had probably the best collection of fossils that had ever been made. What became of this collection we are not aware. In describing his collection it says he had specimens of eighteen different genera and twenty-six species. Five of the latter were pronounced by Professor Calvin "new to science."

The finding of dark, slaty shales (that often occur in the Devonian limestones) in the bottom of those quarries made quite a bit of excitement in Independence. The quarry men thought they had discovered a veritable coal mine and penetrated the shales to a considerable depth but further drilling only proved discouraging

for it exposed just the same dark shale mixed with fragments of real coal, but nothing of any value except the discovery of these five new species.

Writing about the probability of coal being a native "gem of these parts" we read in a *Civilian* of the early date of March 12, 1857, where a public well (and with the proverbial town pump, we suppose) was being dug on Main Street between the postoffice and the White House (one of the early day hotels), a blessing to the business men as well as the families of the upper part of the village. The well had been excavated to the depth of about twenty feet when they discovered what they supposed was coal. The item says "In appearance it resembles the cannel coal of Missouri and from a trial made, it appears to be of a superior quality." (Evidently they were mistaken or else our beautiful Main Street might have been a dirty mine dump long years since.) Another remark in that item was that the ground was frozen solid to a depth of six feet and that in March. Water was first drawn on May 6, 1857. Not only did our forebears think they had discovered a coal mine under the town pump, but we find quite a lengthy article in a June, 1858, paper—substantiating the fact that gold was certainly and satisfactorily and positively found in this county—because Mr. E. Miller, who lived about three miles southeast of this village, had been seen by the editor of the *Civilian* to wash out several specimens of genuine gold. Messrs. Clark Hedges and Meyers, on the same day found several specimens on the Elzy Wilson farm east of Independence (now the McGill place). Several nice specimens were found near Fairbank. Mr. Jed Lake also dug up chunks of gold (it does not state where) which would be considered a paying yield even in California. On Monday, several gentlemen who were still credulous, visited the diggings to see for themselves, and they came back perfectly satisfied that gold is deposited in the soil of Buchanan County. It has also been found at Camp Creek, but by far the most encouraging prospects were on Otter Creek, where gold exists in quartz. Mr. J. S. McGary panned out some "color of gold" (as the Forty-miners called it) in Wilson's spring on the Brandon road but not in any sensational quantity. Rocks of this species from the size of a hazel nut to that of a man's head, bearing a good proportion of gold in quartz, have been picked up quite plentifully. E. B. Older bought one piece for which he paid a dollar and several other specimens have been sold from thirty cents to a dollar. These specimens could not have been brought from California as there is too much rock in proportion to the gold. A short time will tell us whether digging will pay as there are quite a number now prospecting.

This reads like a fairy tale, but it was actual happenings and like the miners' mountains of gold, our prospects all panned out.

For the scientific reader the following data is taken from the Annual Report, 1897, of the Iowa Geological Survey prepared by Samuel Calvin:

#### SITUATION AND AREA

Buchanan is one of the important agricultural counties in the northeastern part of Iowa. Its location is so near the Mississippi River that it attracted early attention from the pioneer homeseekers. Before the advent of the railroad the great watercourse was the main highway of travel, and Dubuque was one of the

points from which immigrants began the overland journey into the interior of the state. Buchanan is the third county west of the river, and its relative proximity to what was at the time the nearest market had its influence in determining the choice of many settlers; but the principal attraction was found in the beautiful expanses of undulating prairies, with soils marvelously fertile and easy of cultivation, in the groves that dotted the prairies, and in the wide stretches of woodland skirting drainage streams that ran clear and full through the whole round of seasons.

Buchanan County embraces sixteen congressional townships. The second correction line divides the county into two nearly equal parts. Delaware and Dubuque counties lie between Buchanan and the eastern boundary of the state. Fayette and Winneshiek separate this county from Minnesota. Buchanan is bounded on the west by Black Hawk, and on the south by Benton and Linn.

#### GEOLOGICAL WORK IN BUCHANAN COUNTY

Previous to the inauguration of the present survey, the geology of Buchanan County was the subject of more or less study by a number of observers. As usual, in this part of Iowa, the first geologist to enter the county was Dr. David Dale Owen, whose parties exploring the mineral lands in the autumn of 1839, examined the townships since named Middlefield, Fremont, Madison and Buffalo. Limestone is reported at one point in Madison Township, but in general no rock was seen except granite boulders, some of which are described as of gigantic size.

The next geologist to visit Buchanan County was Prof. J. D. Whitney, but no detailed work was undertaken, and the report subsequently published contained only a very brief reference to the exposures along the Wapsipinicon from Independence to the south line of the county. No rocks were noted except those belonging to the Devonian period. In the same report Prof. James Hall described and figured a number of interesting fossil forms from the quarries near Independence. In Hall and Whitney's report the limestones at Independence are correlated with the Hamilton formation of New York.

In 1872 Hall and Whitfield published a paper on the Devonian of Iowa, referring incidentally to the limestones at Independence, and correlating them, as had been done before, with the New York Hamilton.

Certain coral-bearing beds at Waterloo, now known to lie above the limestones at Independence, were, however, referred by Hall and Whitfield, in the report cited, to the Corniferous or Upper Helderberg, while the Lime Creek shales, which carry a fauna intimately related to the fauna of shales below the Independence limestones, were correlated with the New York Chemung.

The shale beds lying below the Independence limestones were described by Calvin in 1878. The position and characteristics of the Independence shales were noted, and attention was directed to the fact that the fauna of these lower shales was very similar to that found in the shales along Lime Creek, in Floyd and Cerro Gordo counties. The Independence shales, however, lie near the base of the Devonian system, as it is developed in Iowa, while the Lime Creek shales lie near the summit, with at least 150 feet of limestones between the two horizons; and the practical identity of the two faunas could lead but to the conclusion that the whole Devonian of Iowa, as then known, belonged to a single series.



There are some references to the rocks of Buchanan County in the report of the tenth census. The statistics on the quarries and building stones of Iowa were compiled by McGee. A brief description of the quality of the stone near Independence and Quasqueton is given, and all the Devonian strata of the state are referred to the Hamilton system.

There are frequent referenees to the topography, drainage and rock exposures of Buchanan County in McGee's memoir on the Pleistocene history of North-eastern Iowa. The records of a number of wells give the best sections so far available of the Pleistocene deposits of the county.

#### TOPOGRAPHY

The surface of Buchanan County presents little variety in the way of topographic forms. Much the greater part of the surface is covered with drift of Iowan age, and is diversified only by the gentle swells and broad, ill-drained sloughs that everywhere mark the presence of this sheet of till. Examples of erosion are almost entirely absent over the whole area of Iowan drift, the topographic forms being due mainly to the eccentricities of ice molding. Only along the drainage courses are there any signs of erosion since the retreat of the Iowan ice, and even here the process is in the incipient stage, for it is generally limited to the cutting of the shallow channel and to the carving of short, secondary trenches that extend back only a few rods from the stream. The general surface of the country remains about as it was left by the Iowan ice. The general drift surface is practically unmodified by erosive agents.

In the interval between the going of the Kansan ice and the coming of the Iowan the surface of the older drift was deeply eroded, and in many cases the present surface configuration is controlled to a greater or less extent by the inequalities thus produced. Indications of pre-Iowan topography, only partly disguised by the later drift, are seen—first, in the valley of the Maquoketa, and, second, in the gravel ridges rising forty or fifty feet above the level of the valley, in the northeast corner of Madison Township. The broad, shallow depression followed by Buffalo Creek, is a partly-filled pre-Iowan valley. It may indeed be preglacial. At all events it was a drainage course at the close of the Kansan, for beds of Buchanan gravels laid down during the melting and retreat of the Kansan ice, and now highly oxidized, are strewn all along its course in Buchanan County. The same is true of Pine Creek and its valley in the western part of Byron Township. The same is true to a greater or less extent of every stream in the county. Their valleys, if the broad depressions in which they flow deserve to be called valleys, are not products of erosion since the retreat of the Iowan ice. They were determined by the character of the surface before the Iowan drift was deposited. This later drift simply veneered, without completely disguising the old valleys. Nearly all these valleys were waterways when the Kansan ice was melting and were partly choked by trains of gravel which is now recognized as the valley phase of the Buchanan gravels.

That the Iowan drift, in certain localities, is very thin, and simply mantles a topography developed in pre-Iowan time, is illustrated at numerous points. There are ridges of weathered Buchanan gravels over which the Iowan till is limited to a few inches of dark loam. Even in the valleys the deposit of Iowan

age is not infrequently less than a foot in thickness. A rounded, rocky bluff, rising sixty-five feet above the level of the river, in the southwest quarter of Section 4, Perry Township, has numerous Iowan boulders strewn over the entire surface, from the level of the water up to the summit, and stands as an example of an old topography practically unaffected by Iowan drift. Over by far the larger portion of the county, however, the Iowan drift completely conceals the characters of the pre-Kansan surface and presents a topography peculiarly its own.

Where typically developed, the Iowan drift plain exhibits a surface that is rather gently undulating. The relief curves are low, broad and sweeping, with the concave portions often longer than the convex. Drainage of the broad, gently concave lowlands is imperfect, or was so before the introduction of artificial conditions. The only evidence of erosion is found in the narrow, shallow channels of the drainage streams cut but little below the level of the otherwise unbroken plain.

Taken as a whole Fremont Township has more of the typical characteristics of the Iowan drift plain than any other area of similar size in the county. The relief in general is very low, large areas being flat and imperfectly drained. This is particularly true of the broad plain which is bisected by Prairie Creek. From a short distance north of the center of the township, this stream flows in a narrow, shallow, trough-like ditch; but the gradient is so low that the sluggish current is frequently brought apparently to a standstill by beds of spatter dock and other pond weeds that choke the channel. The broad, gravelly plain east of Buffalo Creek, in the western part of the township, grades imperceptibly into the relatively high ridge of drift between Buffalo and Prairie creeks, a ridge that forms the watershed between the Wapsipinicon and Maquoketa systems of drainage. This ridge would, however, be inconspicuous if set in the midst of topography of pronounced erosional type.

All the other townships are cut by drainage streams of more or less importance, and these, as already noted, follow pre-Iowan valleys that give more than the usual amount of diversity to the surface. But over the greater part of every township the features that characterize Fremont are duplicated with only slight modification of details. In some instances, as over most of Newton Township, the curves are slightly sharper and the amount of dry land, as compared with the sloughs or damp meadow land, is greater. Newton, on the whole, has more perfect drainage than Fremont. There is a large area of very gently undulating land between Bear Creek and the Wapsipinicon River in Homer and Cono townships. Westburg is a distinctively prairie township with some moraine-like knobs and hills in Sections 10 and 15, and some dry gravelly and sandy ridges in Sections 5 and 6; but in general the surface has the low, monotonous undulations of uneroded drift. Buffalo Township is divided, almost diagonally, by a very broad, shallow sag in the general surface, the sag being followed by the west branch of Buffalo Creek; but with the exception of some sand hills and rock exposures in Sections 13 and 24, the whole township is occupied by typical Iowan drift unmodified since the retreat of the Iowan glaciers. The eastern part of Fairbank Township is a very level, dry plateau in which a sheet of Iowan drift varying from two or three to thirty feet in thickness overlies an extensive bed of Buchanan gravels. The plateau is a unique piece of prairie land, without

the usual undulations, and without any indication of imperfect drainage. The underlying gravel seems to afford an easy means of escape for the surplus surface waters.

From Section 12 of Jefferson Township to the south line of the county, Lime Creek flows in an old valley, forty to fifty feet in depth, with numerous rock exposures along the sides, and a very meager amount of Iowan drift coming down on the slopes to the level of the stream.

The most anomalous piece of topography in the county is seen in the high hills bordering the Wapsipinicon River, in Liberty Township, northwest of Quasqueton. From the west line of this township to Quasqueton the river flows in a gorge 130 to 150 feet in depth. The highlands indeed begin, but are at first not very pronounced, in Section 24 of Sumner Township, and they attain their greatest height in Section 29 of Liberty. The land near the river is conspicuously higher than that farther back on the drift plain. The stream, as in the case of the other anomalous rivers of McGee, here seems to go out of its way to cleave a channel in the highest land of the whole region. This highland seems not to have been invaded by Iowan ice. Where it merges into the drift plain there are sometimes bare stony hills and channels of pre-Iowan erosion, as in the west half of Section 24, Sumner Township, and in Sections 31, 32 and 33, Liberty Township. On the flanks of the hills, a little higher than the level of the drift, there is a deep deposit of sand, but the sand, at still higher levels, gives place to true loess. There is a heavy capping of loess overlying Kansan drift on the hills north of the river gorge, in Sections 29 and 30 of Liberty Township. From all the data that can be gathered concerning it, this area of hills and highlands seems to have projected as an island above the surface of the Iowan ice. The region embraces an area of a number of square miles, lying on both sides of the river, beginning in the southern part of Section 24, Sumner Township, and extending southeastward to Quasqueton. It rises above the surface of adjacent Iowan drift to a height of 100 feet or more at the points of greatest elevation. The larger part of the area is north of the river. It was while the Iowan glaciers stood in the surrounding region that the loess was deposited over the higher summits and the beds of sand were laid down at the middle and lower levels.

A curious bit of topography breaking into the general monotony of the Iowan drift plain is seen in the south half of the northeast quarter of Section 28, Middlefield Township. There is here a series of prominent knobs and rounded hills separated by sharp, narrow valleys, the whole arrangement and aspect recalling a fragment of the terminal moraine of the Wisconsin drift. The summit of the highest point is eighty feet above the road at the east end of the group, a road which follows, on even grade, the valley of Buffalo Creek. The height above the creek is about ninety feet. The knobs are grassed over and afford no opportunity to examine their structure, but numerous large granite boulders sprinkled in the sharp valleys suggest that they are of Iowan age. Elsewhere the broad sag constituting the valley of the Buffalo ascends very gradually in a direction at right angles to the stream and imperceptibly blends with the surface of the upland drift.

There are numerous gravel terraces along the Wapsipinicon River between Littleton and the south line of the county. The gravel is in all cases pre-Iowan,

dating from the deposition of the Buchanan gravels. A well marked terrace, separated from the river by a sandy flood plain, passes through the center of Section 25, Cono Township. Another terrace of the same age and same structure occurs in the western half of Section 3 in the same township. There are others of similar type in Sections 28 and 29 of Washington Township, and in Sections 13 and 24 of Perry. All these terraces rise abruptly to a height of ten or twelve feet above the swampy or sandy flood plain between them and the river, the height of the slope being indicative of the amount of erosion that has taken place since the gravels were deposited.

#### DRAINAGE

The drainage of Buchanan County is effected chiefly by the Wapsipinicon River and its branches. This stream flows in a general southeast direction from near the northwest corner of Perry Township to near the southeast corner of Cono. It follows the southern or southwestern margin of its drainage basin. Its main branches flow in from the north, there being no affluents of any importance from the south or west. Streams flowing into the Cedar River and draining the southwestern corner of the county have pushed their sources back to within two miles of the Wapsipinicon, restricting the drainage area southwest of the stream to a comparatively narrow zone. On the other, or north side of the stream, the drainage area is much wider. The tributaries are long, and some of them originate within less than a mile of Buffalo Creek, which drains a very low and narrow valley northeast of the Wapsipinicon. The law that streams in Iowa seek the south side of the valleys, with longer affluents and the wider portion of their drainage basins on the north side, is very generally, though not universally, true.

The Little Wapsipinicon enters the county at Fairbank, near the northwest corner, and drains the western half of Fairbank Township. The eastern half of this township is in general a level plateau without undulations or drainage courses, the surface waters apparently escaping into a bed of Buchanan gravels which here underlie the Iowan drift. The Little Wapsipinicon joins the main stream at Littleton, in Perry Township. Otter Creek, which, with its branches, drains Hazelton Township, is a stream of some importance, supplying valuable water power at two points, and entering the main water course in Section 19 of Washington Township. The eastern part of Washington Township is drained by a number of small streams, among which Harter Creek, that flows into the river above Independence, is probably the most important. Pine Creek drains the southwestern part of Buffalo Township and the greater part of Byron and Liberty. In western Byron it flows in a partly disguised pre-Iowan valley. The banks of the creek are not marshy, as is usually the case in prairie streams, for the reason that heavy beds of Buchanan gravel underlie the surface drift. In Liberty Township this stream cuts into the anomalous highlands described under the head of topography. Owing to the thinness or total absence of the later drift along its lower course, Pine Creek loses the character of a prairie stream in section 9 of Liberty Township, and thence to its mouth runs in an old valley, whose sides present a great number of interesting rock exposures.

Buffalo Creek is a typical prairie stream, flowing in a shallow channel cut in drift all the way from the north line of Buffalo Township to where it crosses into Delaware County, near the middle of the east line of Newton. Its drainage basin is very narrow and all its affluents, except the east branch in Buffalo Township, are short, intermittent streams, usually following mere sags or sloughs, without definite channels. Buffalo Creek is in the main parallel to the Wapsipinicon, and is a part of the Wapsipinicon drainage system, the two streams coming together in Jones County, near Anamosa.

The drainage in the northeastern part of the county belongs to the Maquoketa system. The greater part of Madison Township is drained by the south fork of the Maquoketa, and nearly all of Fremont Township is drained by the sluggish Prairie Creek that eventually joins the Maquoketa near Manchester, in Delaware County.

Spring Creek, Lime Creek and Bear Creek, that drain the part of the county southwest of the Wapsipinicon basin, bear tribute to the Cedar River. They are all of the ordinary type of prairie streams except Lime Creek, which, in the southern half of Jefferson Township, follows a pre-Iowan valley, forty or fifty feet in depth. This old valley seems not to have been filled with Iowan drift, and its walls are diversified with numerous low, rocky cliffs, or rounded, rocky prominences, covered with a scant layer of residual soil.

#### GENERAL RELATIONS OF STRATA

The geological formations of Buchanan County belong to three different systems—namely, the Silurian, Devonian and Pleistocene. The Devonian follows the Silurian in natural sequence without any considerable break; but between the Devonian and the Pleistocene there is a gap of inmeasurable extent. The Silurian and Devonian systems are represented by the limestones and shales that make up the universally spread foundation rocks of the county. These are the so-called indurated rocks. They are the rocks that are worked in all the limestone quarries and are exposed in all the rocky knobs and ledges that project through the loose superficial materials or soils. All the Silurian and Devonian beds are more or less altered marine sediments. On the other hand, the Pleistocene beds are composed of loose, unconsolidated materials laid down by a number of different processes upon the surface of the land. Most of these materials were transported and spread out by glaciers. The pebble-bearing or boulder-bearing yellow and blue clays, so generally distributed over the county and so universally recognized by well diggers and others who have occasion to make excavations to any considerable depth below the natural surface, are all of glacial origin. Glaciers transported the granite boulders that, within the limits of this county, are such conspicuous and striking features in every prairie landscape. Torrents of water from melting glaciers transported, sorted and deposited the great beds of rust-colored Buchanan gravels that are found at numerous points in almost every township. The modern streams have built up deposits of clay and sand that are part of the Pleistocene system, and even winds have been instrumental to some extent in shifting and rearranging the loose surface material and making new deposits of Pleistocene age.

For the term Buchanan, as applied to the interval of time following the age of the Kansan drift, it may be found convenient to adopt the name Yarmouth, proposed by Leverett. But the only recognized deposits referable to the time immediately following the disappearance of the Kansan glaciers are those to which the name Buchanan gravels is applied, and it is for this reason that the term used in speaking of these deposits is retained. It must be borne in mind, however, that the deposition of the gravels seems to have been practically coincident with the withdrawal of the Kansan ice, and from this point of view a strict classification might require us to regard the gravels as only a phase of deposits properly belonging to the Kansan stage. Admitting all this, the fact remains that the marked structural differences between the Kansan drift and the Buchanan gravels renders their separation for purposes of study and treatment a matter of very great convenience.

A similar explanation seems necessary with respect to the use of the term loess for the interval following the Iowan drift. The intimate genetic relation between Iowan drift and loess is such as to require us, in a rigid system of classification, to look upon the two deposits as different phases representing the same stage; and it is only as a convenient way of recognizing the differences in physical characteristics which distinguish them that the two are separated. The Buchanan gravels were certainly not laid down until the Kansan ice had retreated from the surface over which they were spread. Loess may have been deposited on the highlands northwest of Quasqueton while the Iowan ice was at its maximum, or even before the maximum was reached. Absolute contemporaneity between Iowan drift and loess is much more possible than between Kansan drift and Buchanan gravels in the same neighborhood.

#### NIAGARA LIMESTONE

The Niagara limestone is found in all the outcrops in the northeastern part of the county. With one or two exceptions presently to be noted, the rocks of this series are coarse, granular, vesicular dolomites, interbedded at certain localities with large quantities of chert. The beds all belong to the Delaware stage and are simply an extension of the strata exposed in the northwestern part of Delaware County.

Along the Maquoketa, near the southwest corner of section 10, Madison Township, there are exposures of the coarse Niagara limestone in some low knobs bordering the stream. Excepting some casts or impressions of *Halysites catenulatus*, the beds are unfossiliferous. Niagara limestone is exposed over an area of several acres in extent in the southern part of section 18 and northern part of 19, in the western edge of Madison Township, and there are exposures on the township line between sections 18 of Madison Township and 13 of Buffalo. The limestone here occurs in stony knobs or prominences and affords a section twelve or fifteen feet in thickness. The beds are quite regular, from two to six inches in thickness, and they have been quarried in a small way at one or two points, and in at least one locality they have been used in the manufacture of lime. The drift is very thin on all the low, rounded hills of the immediate neighborhood, so that the stone could readily be exposed and quarried over a much larger area, if the demand warranted the effort. Silicified colonies of the

corals *Halysites catenulatus* and *Favosites favosus* are the principal fossils, and with these are associated a number of *Stromatoporoids*, silicified, and practically structureless in their present condition. Near the middle of the west line of section 16, in Madison, there is an outcrop of Niagara, covering a small area, and affording silicified corals, mostly *Syringopora tenella*.

In Buffalo Township there are exposures of Niagara limestone near the southeast corner of section 13. Where the road between sections 13 and 24 of this township crosses the east branch of Buffalo Creek there is a vertical ledge of Niagara which forms the west abutment of the bridge. Other exposures occur at intervals for a mile or more below the bridge. All are of the coarse, granular type, and all indicate a horizon about the middle of the Delaware stage, the equivalent of the *Pentamerus* and coral-bearing zone described in the report on Delaware County.

Niagara limestone is exposed at numerous points along Otter Creek and its branches, in the northern part of Hazelton Township. The outcrops are almost continuous along the stream courses in Sections 2 and 10, north and northeast of Hazelton. In the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 10 the rock appears in thin, irregular beds which furnish *Lyellia americana* and *Helio-lites interstinctus*. In the southeast fourth of the same quarter section a quarry was opened that showed thin layers in the upper part of the working and thicker beds near the base. There was a large amount of chert interbedded with the limestone. Natural exposures of the same beds, much weathered and overgrown with moss, extend along the low bluff east of the quarry for a distance of 500 feet. In the talus along the base of the bluff, and in the wash of the creek, there occur *Lyellia americana*, *Syringopora tenella*, *Favosites hispidus*, *Favosites favosus* and *Favosites alveolaris*, or a species with pores in the angles of the corallites and closely related to *F. alveolaris* and *F. aspera*.

All the exposures in Section 10 of this township show the coarse, granular facies of the Niagara dolomite; but in the southwest quarter of Section 2 the coarse dolomite passes beneath fine-grained non-dolomitized limestone which may possibly represent the horizon of the evenly-bedded quarry stone in the upper part of the Delaware stage in Delaware and Jones counties. This fine-grained limestone varies in color from light drab to blue. It breaks with conchoidal fracture and has the grain of lithographic limestone; but the texture is not quite uniform and all the pieces observed were still further rendered valueless as lithographic stone by numerous checks and flaws. Some quarries have been worked in this horizon in the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 2, the largest becoming known as the John Conrad quarry. The layers vary in thickness from four to ten inches. The beds are light gray in the upper part of the quarry; bluish in the lower part. Near Coytown, in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 2, the light gray facies of these upper beds is exposed in a quarry that has been worked in the manufacture of lime. Near the top of this quarry the layers seem to be brecciated, and thin beds of lithographic limestone are irregularly interbedded with a rather coarse crystalline dolomite. Neither at Coytown nor at the Conrad quarry were any fossils observed in the fine-grained limestone, nor were any found in the overlying residual clays to indicate that beds of the ordinary Niagara type, containing silicified corals and other organic remains, had ever existed above it.

In the banks of Otter Creek, south of Hazleton, there are ledges of Niagara limestone rising above the level of the water to a height of fifteen feet, and on the hillside sloping to the west there are outcropping ledges, alternating with spaces concealed by clay or sod, up to a height of twenty-five to thirty feet farther. Near the level of the water the layers are quite regular, and free from fossils so far as noted, except for a single cast of a small individual of *Orthis bifurcata*, such as occurs not infrequently in certain phases of the Delaware stage, in Cedar County. Higher up, on the slope of the hill, *Lyellia americana* and the Favosites with pores in the angles of the corallites, which is referred to the species *Favosites alveolaris*, are not uncommon. These two, indeed, are the most characteristic and persistent species of the Niagara limestone in this part of Buchanan County. There is a small quarry of evenly-bedded Niagara limestone east of the creek, in the northeast quarter of Section 18, Hazleton Township, but the best outcrop of Niagara in this township is seen in the hill west of the west branch of Otter Creek, on the road passing between Sections 7 and 18. The locality is known as the Mignet Hill. A section showing twenty-five to thirty feet of rock is here exposed. The lower beds exposed contain *Halysites catenulatus*, *Syringopora tenella* and *Ptychophyllum expansum*. Higher up there is a larger assemblage of typical Niagara corals, including *Heliolites interstinctus*, *Lyellia americana*, *Halysites catenulatus* and *Favosites alveolaris*. At the summit of the hill the beds are largely made up of thin, expanded forms of *Stromatopora* not silicified. One-fourth mile further west the rock is again exposed, and in the residual surface materials are silicified colonies of *Heliolites*, *Lyellia*, *Halysites* and *Favosites*. A few layers of soft, earthy Niagara limestone, very much decayed by weathering, are exposed in the railway cut in the south edge of Hazleton, but they show nothing of special importance.

While no outcrops of Niagara were seen in Fairbank Township, the formation underlies the drift over an undetermined area, but one of considerable extent, in the northeastern corner. On the little Wapsipinicon River, one and one-half miles north of the Town of Fairbank, the Niagara limestone forms a high bluff on the south side of the stream. The bluff rises forty feet above the level of the water, and the vertical cliffs of brownish-yellow, weathered dolomite measure sixteen feet. On the rounded slopes above the projecting ledges the soil contains masses of residual Niagara chert and silicified Niagara corals, showing that the Niagara limestone is present up to an altitude equaling that of the summit of the bluffs. This fact is of interest only when taken in connection with another fact—namely, that at Fairbank, only a mile and a half south, there are quarries opened in Devonian beds, and the level of the Devonian quarries is forty feet lower than the summit of the bluff of Niagara limestone, twenty-five feet lower than the brow of the vertical cliff of massive Niagara dolomite. The later Devonian was deposited against the side of a steep, anticlinal fold, which lifted the Niagara of northeastern Buchanan much above the position it normally would have occupied had the strata retained, relatively, the position in which they were laid down on the floor of the Silurian sea. To this upward folding of the Niagara is due the strong reentrant angle which is made in tracing the eastern edge of the Devonian area from the central part of Fayette County to near the southeast corner of Buchanan.



## CORRELATION OF FORMATIONS

The earlier geologists of Iowa attempted to correlate the Devonian strata of the state with certain recognized Devonian beds belonging to the geological column of New York. Owen referred a part at least of the Devonian formations he encountered west of the Mississippi to the Hamilton series, and nearly all subsequent geologists have followed his example. The fact is, however, that the Devonian system of Iowa was deposited in an area geologically isolated from that in which the eastern Devonian was developed. The conditions of sedimentation were different in the two areas. The order and succession of faunal conditions were not the same. The eastern Devonian faunas, subjected to certain physical conditions and undergoing certain modifications, probably migrated from the northeast along the eastern border of the continental nucleus, while the western faunas of the same period seem to have come from the northwest along the western border of the Devonian continent. The conditions encountered were different and the modification of the species progressed along wholly different lines. Even in the case of species that are common to the two provinces, there is evidence that the time and order of arrival at the same latitude on opposite sides of the old continent were not the same. The Devonian fauna of Iowa is intimately related, in certain respects, to that at the ramparts of the Mackenzie River; it bears some resemblance to the Devonian fauna of the Eureka District of Nevada; but, for purposes of minutely correlating strata, it would be misleading to compare it with the faunas of this period in the eastern province. As an illustration of the extent of the error into which even the most eminent and experienced of geologists may be led when attempting to correlate the eastern and western Devonian by means of the geological faunas, it is worth noting that some years ago the quarry stone at Raymond was referred to the Schoharie stage, the coral-bearing beds at Waterloo were called Corniferous, the limestones at Independence were assigned to the Hamilton, and the Lime Creek shales were called Chemung. Now the Lime Creek fauna is found in shales below the Independence limestones, and so, judging from the fauna, the Independence shales are also Chemung. Furthermore, the coral-bearing beds at Waterloo are younger than the limestones at Independence, for they lie above them, and the quarry stone at Raymond is still younger than the coral beds that were referred to the Corniferous. Beginning with the Independence shales, the actual order of the strata in Iowa, according to the correlation referred to, would be—(1) Chemung, (2) Hamilton, (3) Corniferous, (4) Schoharie—a complete reversal of the order observed in New York. It may be repeated, for the sake of emphasis, that the western Devonian cannot be correlated, except in a broad and very general way, with that of the east.

All the beds of this system observed in Buchanan County are referred provisionally to the "Middle Devonian," and this notwithstanding the fact that no positive evidence of an erosion interval between the Silurian and Devonian is known to exist.

## INDEPENDENCE SHALES

The Independence shales belong to the Wapsipinicon stage of Norton. The underlying "Otis beds" are not known in Buchanan County, and the shales in

question constitute the lowest recognized member of the Devonian in this part of Iowa. In the county there are no natural exposures of the shales that show well their characteristics and entire thickness. The most that is known here concerning them was learned from shafts sunk at the old Kilduff Quarry east of Independence. The formation was penetrated to a depth of twenty feet and was found to consist of dark-colored shales, alternating with thin beds of limestone. At certain levels the shale was very dark, carbonaceous, and contained vegetable remains, some parts of which had been transformed into true coal. There are outcrops of the shales in the river bank, at the level of the water, near the center of the north line of section 10, Summer Township. There is a small exposure of the shales in the bank of the creek in the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 35, Washington Township; and they are seen again near the bridge at Quasqueton, in Liberty Township. Running through this formation at a certain level is a bed of unfossiliferous, laminated, clayey limestone that splits into thin leaves one-fourth to one-half an inch in thickness. This phase is easily recognized, and exposures of it are seen along Harter Creek, in the northwest quarter of section 27, Washington Township, and along the Wapsipinicon, in the southwest quarter of section 24, Summer Township. In general, however, the natural exposures are few and unsatisfactory, the position of the beds being such that the outcropping edges are either covered with talus or are sodded over.

#### CEDAR VALLEY LIMESTONE

The line of division between the Wapsipinicon and Cedar Valley stages of the Iowa Devonian may conveniently be drawn at the top of the *Spirifer pennatus* zone. Above this line there is a marked change in the character of the limestone and a still more marked change in the fauna. The rock is harder, at first ranging from yellow to dark gray in color, and the evidences of crushing and disturbance have almost entirely disappeared. The characteristic fauna of the lower beds ceases abruptly, and in the zone immediately following the *S. pennatus* beds corals become the predominating type. The most common species is *Acervularia profunda*, and in the beds characterized by this fine coral there occur *Favosites alpenensis* and several other species of *Favosites*, *Alveolites goldfussi*, *Cladopora magna*, *Cladopora palmata*, two or more species of *Zaphrentis*, *Aulocophyllum*, more than one species of *Cyathophyllum*, *Ptychophyllum versiforme* and *Cystiphyllum Americanum*. Besides the corals there are a number of peculiar stromatoporoids that have as yet received no attention from paleontologists. Near the base of this zone, but in a narrow band containing but few other corals, the large and beautiful *Phillipsastrea billingsi* occurs locally in considerable numbers.

#### PLEISTOCENE

The surface of Buchanan County is very generally covered with beds of drift or other deposits belonging to the Pleistocene System. The Sub-Aftonian or Pre-Kansan drift has not been recognized at the surface, but its pres-

encé is demonstrated in numerous borings and excavations by a soil and forest bed horizon underneath the blue clay of Kansan age.

#### KANSAN

Kansan drift is spread almost universally over Buchanan County. In some cases it comes almost or quite to the surface; in other cases it is reached only after penetrating ten or twenty feet, or even more, of the later lowan till, and in still other cases, it is buried beneath lowan till and Buchanan gravels.

The Kansan till is normally a blue clay intersected by numerous joints and carrying large numbers of pebbles and bowlders of dark colored, fine grained greenstone. Fragments of limestone are not uncommon, and there are also some bowlders of light colored, porphyritic granite. The bowlders and bowlderets of various kinds are quite generally faceted and striated on one or two sides. Where the Kansan drift was not disturbed by the later lowan ice invasion there is a zone of oxidation, varying in thickness, and recording the changes that took place in the superficial portion of the drift as a result of exposure to weather during the long interval between the retreat of the Kansan ice and the advent of the lowan. The oxidized zone is only partly preserved in No. 2 of the section last above described. Fragments of wood, many of which are referable to the American larch, *Larix americanus*, are distributed through the entire thickness of the blue Kansan till. Wood is however, more abundant in the lower part of the formation; and it reaches its maximum in the forest and soil bed that marks the Aftonian horizon and separates the Kansan from the Sub-Aftonian drift.

#### BUCHANAN GRAVEL

In the latitude of Buchanan County the disappearance of the Kansan ice was attended by strong currents of water flowing away from the ice margin. These currents were loaded with glacial debris including fragments ranging from fine silt to bowlders a foot or more in diameter. The course of the currents was marked by deposits of sand and gravel more or less sorted and stratified, and not infrequently cross-bedded on an extensive scale. It is to these particular deposits that the name of Buchanan gravel has been applied. Beds of the gravel are strewn continuously for miles along the valley of Buffalo Creek in Byron and Middlefield townships. They are common along Pine Creek in the western part of Byron. They are conspicuous along the Valley of the Wapsipicon between Littleton and Independence. All the streams, in fact, are bordered more or less generally by trains of gravel. But the gravels are by no means confined to the stream valleys. They are found quite as frequently on the high lands, and some of the highest points in the county are marked by the presence of coarse, ferruginous stratified deposits of this age. Streams may have flowed in glacial canyons along the hilltops while the adjacent lowlands were still occupied by heavy bodies of ice.

The Buchanan gravel presents two phases, an upland phase in which the materials are relatively coarse, and a valley phase, composed largely of sand and fine gravel. Bowlders, ranging to more than a foot in diameter, are not

uncommon in the upland deposits; pebbles more than an inch in diameter would rank among the unusually large constituent fragments in the lowland phase.

The type exposure of Buchanan gravel occurs at the gravel pit of the Illinois Central Railroad, in the northwest quarter of section 32, Byron Township. Here the deposit is about twenty feet in thickness. A very fine exposure of Buchanan gravel is seen in a large pit worked for road material near the northeast corner of section 4, Liberty Township. In some respects it is better than the type exposure east of Independence.

Another excellent exposure of Buchanan gravel occurs west of the center of section 33, Perry Township. A large pit is worked for material which is used in improving the streets of Jesup. A thickness of eighteen feet is exposed.

About a mile east of Independence there is a heavy bed of Buchanan gravel presenting all the usual characteristics. It is overlain at one point by 2½ feet of Iowan drift. This deposit is remarkable for the fact that it occurs on the highest ground between the Wapsipinicon and the Buffalo. At one point the bed has been worked extensively for road material, but the gravel covers the whole hilltop over quite a large area.

The region about Rowley is well supplied with gravels belonging to the Buchanan stage, and there is an extensive area underlain by these gravels in the eastern half of Fairbank Township.

Gravel is found over an area from half a mile to a mile and a half in width east and southeast of Littleton, and it is continued in a belt of varying width all the way to Independence. It extends up the valley of Harter Creek for at least two miles.

#### IOWAN DRIFT

The Iowan drift is the superficial deposit over the greater part of Buchanan County. Since this drift was laid down the surface has been modified to only a very slight extent. The general aspect of a region covered with drift of Iowan age is typically displayed in Cono, Homer and Westburg townships, southwest of the Wapsipinicon River, and in Middlefield, Fremont and Byron, northeast of this stream. The surface is very gently undulating and is liberally sprinkled with enormous granite boulders. Boulders ten, fifteen or twenty feet in diameter, and standing conspicuously above the general surface, are common features of the prairie landscapes, and great granite masses, thirty feet in diameter, are known at several points. Multitudes of smaller boulders, ranging from one to two or three feet in diameter, are a serious encumbrance in many fields and pastures.

The main body of the Iowan drift is a yellow, highly calcareous clay. It shows no such differences between the superficial and deeper portions as does the Kansan. It has remained, even at the grass roots, practically unchanged by weathering since its deposition. The great stretches of undulating prairie without marked drainage courses remain unaffected by the agents of erosion. As compared with the Kansan drift or the Buchanan gravels, the Iowan is very young, the time since its deposition being evidently only a very small fraction

of the length of the interval between the disappearance of the Kansan ice and the appearance of the Iowan.

The maximum thickness of this drift sheet is unknown. It was evidently deposited on a deeply eroded surface, and it is, therefore, very thin over the Pre-Iowan hilltops and deeper in the Pre-Iowan valleys. Railway cuts, which of necessity are limited to the higher ridges, usually, in Buchanan and adjacent counties, show only a thin veneer of Iowan drift resting on weathered Kansan. In the big railway cut east of Oelwein in Fayette County, the Iowan stage is represented by a layer of loamy soil less than a foot in thickness, while in the eastern part of Fairbank Township, Buchanan County, the farm wells show at least thirty feet of Iowan till overlying highly oxidized beds of Buchanan gravel.

#### LOESS

Loess is rather rare in Buchanan County, the deposits of this material being of small importance when compared with the widely spread beds of the same material in Dubuque, Delaware and Jones counties. In Buchanan, true loess seems to be limited to some high points north of the Wapsipinicon River in sections 28, 29 and 30 of Liberty Township. While the loess here is typical in character, its thickness is not very great. It mantles an irregularly eroded surface that rises from sixty to eighty feet above the level of the Iowan drift plain. Rain erosion in the fields and roads has, in places, cut through the entire thickness of the deposit and revealed the underlying Kansan drift with its peculiar boulders and characteristically weathered surface. There is no Iowan drift on these loess-covered highlands.

#### POST-GLACIAL DEPOSITS

But little change has taken place in the surface of the county since the retreat of the Iowan ice, the date from which the postglacial history of the county should be reckoned. Some alluvium has doubtless been deposited along the stream valleys during times of high water, but in most cases it is too thin to be differentiated from the loam which has been developed on the surface of the Iowan drift by the numerous agents concerned in soil-making. In the deep preglacial valleys that have been mentioned as occurring at a few points along Lime Creek and the Wapsipinicon River, there are some beds of alluvium, but they are thin, small and unimportant.

In the county there are a few rather anomalous peat bogs which present the unusual phenomenon of being higher than the dry ground in the immediate neighborhood. One in the northwest quarter of section 13, Perry Township, is typical of all the beds of the kind observed. The peat is coarse and fibrous, with a total thickness of eight or ten feet. The bed occurs on a long, gently sloping hillside and in the center is several feet higher than the dry ground at the right and left. The area covered is small. The surface supports a luxuriant growth of coarse sedge or slough grass. A similar peat bog on relatively high ground is seen in the southwestern part of section 19, Newton Township, and there is another in the southwest quarter of Section 8, Hazleton

Township. The location of the peat beds has been determined by the presence of springs or "seeps" issuing from the drift on the hill slope.

#### SOILS

Soils, in the narrower sense which limits the term to the fine dark colored loam developed on the surface of the loose, superficial materials, are generally throughout the county, of postglacial origin. Soils vary with the nature of the deposit from which they are derived. Drift soils are most common in the county under consideration, and practically all of the drift soils are developed on the lowan till. This class of soils is from six inches to two or three feet in depth, dark in color on account of its wealth of organic matter, more or less sandy, warm and easily cultivated. Such soils contain a considerable amount of lime carbonate that, added to the vegetable matter with which they are so richly endowed, renders them capable of producing crops of cereals for many successive years without showing signs of exhaustion. The small area of loess soils in sections 28, 29 and 30, of Liberty Township, has recently been stripped of its timber and brought under cultivation. The results are more satisfactory than in many other areas of similar soils where the slopes are steeper and the effects of rain erosion are more pronounced. There are small areas of gravelly and sandy soils along the stream valleys, the largest being found north and north-west of Independence.

#### DEFORMATIONS

The anticlinal fold to which reference was made in discussing the Niagara limestone, is the principal disturbance of which there is clear record in Buchanan County. There are some slight folds, probably, however, due to the inequalities of deposition, in the Devonian strata.

#### UNCONFORMITIES

The Devonian beds are evidently unconformable on the sloping side of the Niagara antiline in the vicinity of Fairbank, and the relations of the several Pleistocene deposits to each other, and to the indurated rocks on which the lowest drift sheet lies, afford other illustrations of unconformity.

## CHAPTER II

### FLORA AND FAUNA

#### AT THE BEGINNING—ECONOMIC FEATURES

We do not deem it necessary to this history to give an exhaustive account of the flora and fauna of this county, but a description of its physical features would be incomplete without at least some general description of both.

We would not try to give a scientific study along these lines, even were it possible, for such a treatise is only interesting to professionals and students of those particular sciences.

We will, however, aim to mention and briefly describe those species of flora and fauna which have been the most prolific and most commonly known here, and in such a manner that we hope will interest lovers of nature. What information we will here set forth has been gleaned from our own study and observation, from previous articles written on the subjects in an early history and others written by students of these sciences of the present day.

One of the most startling reflections in regard to this subject is that such great changes have been produced, both in the flora and fauna of this county, as well as of all other newly-settled regions, by the advent of civilization. These changes are utterly unavoidable although regrettable. It takes a vivid imagination to picture a country, now so highly developed, in its wild and uncultivated state, where flora and fauna rivaled each other in their prolificness, but not in their inalienable rights. There was no contention between the kingdoms in those early days; each reigned absolute, in its own sphere. It was not until the ruthless hand of man had destroyed that some of these species succumbed. Nature has so arranged it that under normal conditions and left unmolested by man, the different species protect themselves, and will maintain a natural replenishing existence. But once let the average fall far short and it is difficult and almost impossible for any plant or animal to regain its former flourishing state. Nature can and will retrieve her losses, if given time, but she cannot withstand continued onslaught without at last losing the power of production. We see this demonstrated in the flora and fauna, as in all other of Nature's species.

Many, yes, hundreds of vegetable species, and many, though doubtless a much smaller number of animal species, have been subdued and adapted to man's needs and become like him, domesticated and cultivated. These are the food plants, the vegetables and the domestic animals that have become actual necessities to his existence. To these we are greatly indebted for our material comforts. Then there are other species, which, like certain song birds and flowering plants, are semi-domesticated; they will dwell peacefully and contentedly in close proximity to man, and are never found remote from his habitat. To these

we owe much for the esthetic and sensuous enjoyment they give. But there are numerous noxious and tenacious weeds and vines and harmful and annoying insects and vermin that infest the homes of man and follow him with a pertinaciousness and defiance that menaces his comfort and fairly threatens his God-given supremacy. Then there are those species which defy all the efforts and advances of man to subdue and domesticate them and still retain their natural wild state, or gradually die from the conflict and finally become extinct.

Speaking of the pernicious weeds that have become a real, public nuisance and have prevailed in spite of every known precaution, safe preventive and sure cure, we have but to mention the dandelion and everyone appreciates what the words, persistent and noxious, mean. It seems improbable, but nevertheless it is a substantiated fact, that some of the early pioneer women, and one an ancestor of the author, sent back East to procure some dandelion seed. She was homesick for the beautiful, bright yellow blossoms, and they are beautiful, and would be considered choice, indeed, if they were scarce, but familiarity breeds contempt.

Another early settler told of finding one of the plants and carefully transplanting it into her flower garden. Nowadays we transplant their remains into the garbage pile.

Then there are the plantago, or common plantain, stellaria or chick-weed, purslane or portulaca oleracea, shepherd's purse or *Capsella bursa pastoris* and other members of the cruciferae, or mustard family, burdock, or lappa major, stick-weed and beggar's lice (species of *Echinopsperinium*), several species of polygonium, especially those called lady's thumb and smart weed, thistles, tumble-weed, rag-weed, dog-fennel or wild daisy, wild morning-glory, milk weed or *Asclepias*, horse mint, and many others of which we do not know even a common name. Perhaps they are unworthy of any name.

And where there is too much sand and too little substance for any decent plants to grow, the sandbur, burgrass, or *Cenchrus tribuloides*, which very appropriately means thistle hedge hog, and which is the special tribulation of the barefoot boy.

None of these plants, as far as we can find, are indigenous to this country. The first settlers found none of them on the prairies or in the groves and it is an interesting study in itself to know how seeds are carried to far distant lands, and if the wind and the birds were means of transportation formerly, as they still are, how can we definitely decide which are the indigenous and which are the cultivated plants, even though the botanist arrived early on the scene, but that is a question which only a scientist can answer with any degree of knowledge and really is a matter of trifling consequence, and however it is, the pioneers thought they had left them all behind, but as soon as they were well established in their new homes, they were astonished to find many of their old troublesome neighbors, the weeds, had moved in and were as tranquilly settled in the new home as were their previous, warlike enemies, the pioneers. How they got here nobody knows, and the perplexing question of how to get rid of them is as great a problem, but evidently they are here to stay despite all efforts to the contrary.

Of the animals which accompanied the early settlers in the same unbidden, unceremonious manner, are the birds that sing, chirp, and twitter about our



houses and in the fields and woods, and with which we would not for any reason part; we love their song and companionship so much. Among these are the robin, blue-jay, house-wren, song sparrow, blue bird, oriole, swallow, martin, meadow-lark, bob-o-link and others. All these birds that we find so common now, were not native to these woods. We are fortunate in having a great variety and great abundance of birds in this locality, the woods and meadow are full of them in the summer and even in town they are very numerous, but comparatively few of them can stand the severity of our winters. One that braves even the most vigorous weather is the blue-jay and this constancy, together with his gay and beautiful plumage, is more than a compensation for his harsh voice, though even he has occasionally, a sort of "sotto voce" warble which is by no means unmusical, but our summer guests are the real songsters. And the summer residents are too numerous to give a complete list, but we will add a few to the different ones we have already spoken of. The yellow hammer, sapsucker, purple grackle, vireo, kinglet, warbler, grosbeak, goldfinch, cow bird, flycatcher, kingbird, flicker, snipe, mourning dove, hawk, owl, crow, kingfisher, whip-poor-will, chimney swift, pewee, meadow lark, humming bird, catbird, brown thrasher, wood thrush, veery, scarlet tanager, and many, many others, and most of these mentioned have several different species, so you can imagine that the feathered kingdom is a vast one.

Then there are the English sparrows, which never leave us, and become so numerous that they are a real pest—they build their nests in such annoying places, in the cornices of stores, barns and houses, over porches and windows, in the lattice work and even in the most insecure and peculiar places, and are quite as persistent in maintaining their selected residence as are the dandelions. We knew of some which built their nests over a sliding barn door. Day after day the door was shoved back and ruined their nests; or if the door did not destroy them the man of the house would rake them down. But their courage and persistency were never daunted; they commenced immediately to work at rebuilding, gathering together the same material which had been scattered broadcast. Such tenacity and ambition surely are to be admired, even in a bird which we do not particularly love. But their most disagreeable trait is that they are so mean and annoying to other birds; they steal their nests, aggravate the mother birds when nesting and make life generally miserable to all of the other bird families, and yet one cannot help but like them as they are aggressive, saucy and law-defying, but withal are so independent, sprightly and courageous.

Our other little winter birds are all such peaceful and happy little fellows. A former historian declared the bluejay was the only bird that could brave the severity of our winters, but nowadays we have quite a few kinds that are our constant visitants throughout the winter months. This may be accounted for either that the winters are not so severe (there being more protection for birds) or possibly these particular varieties were not habitants of this region in the early days.

Some of those which are winter residents here, at least if the winter is a mild one, are the chickadee, brown creeper, downy woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, phoebe, junco, nuthatch, bluejay, snowbird, pine grosbeak, waxwing, shrike, snowflake, redpole, owl, and others. But of all the birds I would venture a guess that the robin is the most familiar and best liked bird that we have in our

vicinity although the wren is a close second in popularity, and next to the English sparrow—that troublesome, vexatious importation—the robin is the most numerous.

The instinct which leads these and other species to make their abode about human dwellings is a most interesting and wonderful one. Some, no doubt, do it because they can find their food more easily and others because of the protection it affords them from the attacks of hostile species, while some seem just to want to be friendly with man, and probably all these reasons influence them to frequent human habitation. It is still more wonderful that species which for the most part lived remote from the abodes of men, and are reckoned as the most timid and difficult to tame, should actually change their characteristics and manifest such confidence in their civilized neighbors that they move to quarters in close proximity.

The red squirrels are becoming so numerous and so audacious under the laws protecting them in the towns that they threaten to be a great nuisance; every tree seems alive with the frisking, chattering little animals and they have almost monopolized this original favorite retreat of the birds and driven them to seek the more extensive woodlands for their homes. These saucy scamps help themselves to all the nuts and fruit they want and to all the delicacies of the garden—strawberries and sweet corn are their especial delight. They also are said to eat the birds' eggs and destroy their young and a continual warfare rages between these little tree dwellers. The gray rabbits, certainly one of the most timid and untamable of the native animals, are frequently seen around town, and will brave all their dangerous foes to burrow their nests under some brush pile or outbuilding in our back yards. And very occasionally in some vacant lot or on the outskirts of the towns, the pretty, graceful little quail is seen—but only at such times when the state game law enforces a closed season for his protection. A natural instinct, probably inherited from a long line of his ancestors, has taught him that along about September 1st it is time for him to keep his distance and be very wary and cautious of all bipeds, especially if they are carrying anything resembling a ramrod. Prairie chicken seem to be even more scarce than quail. At this late year, 1914, when there are comparatively so few quails in this county, it might almost be doubted that they are seen in the towns but the writer has known of a pair frequenting a vacant lot opposite her home for several summers. And the tales of the early settlers about the great abundance of native game seem much more improbable. We have heard them tell tales that would out-distance Baron Munchausen and would fairly compete with Uncle Opie Dilldoek of comic supplement fame—tales that would positively establish this as the real red man's "Heaven," the "Happy Hunting Ground" for all good Indians. One tale bears repeating. After supper one evening one of the early settlers of Independence went just to the outskirts of the town to get a prairie chicken for breakfast. He saw a flock of them perched in a compact row along a fence board. He got on a line with them and fired—just one shot—and killed—. Oh, no, not quite all, because several hundred flew away; but he picked up birds there until it got too dark to see and when he got home he only had forty-nine, and so many were left to bleach upon the prairie that the spot was ever after known as the "bone-yard." Now this tale may not be absolutely true as to a few minor details such as figures, but the general idea is correct, because we have verified the fact that there was a

great abundance of both fish and game here in the early days. Which brings to mind many fish tales which far surpass even Jonah's in size, but we would not want to entirely risk our reputation as historians—and veracious ones—to repeat said tales, even for the sake of boosting our county.

But from a real authentic source (the county newspaper of December 22, 1863, date) we quote this interesting item: "The way the prairie chickens are coming into town is surprising. One man sold \$350 worth yesterday, while sales of \$50 and \$100 are of frequent occurrence." Three or four wagonloads of chickens, quail and pheasants on the streets in one day was not unusual and the shipping of chickens had become quite an industry; some of the stores in Independence were literally piled full of them ready for shipping East. And another item told that Tom Hunt, the best shot in Buchanan County, recently killed 157 chickens in one day with 150 shots. (Certainly a record breaker.) We believe the record breaker is one dated September, 1869. It told of four young men starting out of Independence at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, driving fifteen miles, hunted the remainder of that and the next day, and bagged 337 prairie chickens—a record which was never beaten after that in this county.

Of the most unwelcome species which followed the early settlers to their western homes are the rats and mice and various insects that prey upon their cultivated fruits, garden truck and grain. And it is a strange fact that almost every tree, shrub, and plant which is necessary or desirable for man's uses has its peculiar insect enemy. Farmers dread the insects far more than bad weather. Some seasons the fruit and vegetables in particular localities have been completely destroyed by insects and worms, and several succeeding years the grain crops were utterly destroyed by chinch bugs. Cut worms, potato bugs and other pests have at times worked havoc with crops. Farmers in this vicinity entirely stopped raising wheat on this account, and only recently have they resumed the industry. The grasshopper and locust have bothered some, but not to the direful extent that occurred in other of the western states. We do not seem to have those pernicious insect pests with which the early settlers had to contend, but every new country has all of these things to overcome, and when that has been accomplished, new vicissitudes arise to be conquered.

It is a ceaseless and relentless warfare, the beneficent forces against the malevolent and not always does right prevail. As in the instance of the rats and mice, which although they do not propagate very fast, and although man is continually and everlastingly fighting these abominable pests which do so much harm, and seem to be for no purpose but destruction and annoyance, so far as we can see (to all races except the Mongolian, who are said to consider them a rare delicacy), they still thrive and prosper.

And in spite of all sorts of destructive agents, such as traps and gins and deadly poisons being employed, and even with the assistance of other hostile species such as cats, ferrets and terriers, they manifest no symptoms of approaching extermination. These pernicious rodents multiply and multiply and follow man to the ends of the earth, whether on sea or land and methinks a more daring breed will even venture an aeroplane flight.

As someone has said, they seem to repeat with ironical emphasis the affectionate words of Ruth to Naomi—"Whither thou goest, I will go, and where thou lodgest, I will lodge. Where thou diest will I die, and there will I be buried."

The first and most prominent rat ever in Independence was said to have jumped off a freight car, but as the railroad did not come through until 1859 and three years later, according to the editor of the Guardian, who devotes almost half a column to the pernicious, vexatious rodent, they were literally overrunning the town, so we conclude not to lay this too, against the railroad, but are inclined to believe that the original ancestral Mr. and Mrs. Rat came through in somebody's trunk, box or barrel, long before the days of rails and freight cars, when the means of transportation was horse power instead of steam. Nowadays, in building corn-cribs and granaries, every possible precaution is used to prevent the awful destruction of these troublesome pests, such as cement floors and the building elevated upon posts with inverted bowls or cups to keep out the intruders.

Another vicious habit of rats and mice, so authorities claim, is to carry disease. Hog cholera has often been spread this way. Just as now the common housefly is considered one of man's worst enemies in scattering disease germs, and we fight that insect as we would a poisonous snake. There was a time when they were considered rather a harmless and unpreventable, though most disagreeable and annoying adjunct to households, especially on the farm where they breed so prolifically, but nowadays every place we look, in all the papers and magazines, and even on placards printed especially, are we warned to "swat the fly," and we are led to believe they are a menace both to health and cleanliness and our lack of intelligence and refinement are rather estimated according to the number of flies we accommodate on our premises, though this is a most unjust method.

Mosquitoes and ants come in for their share of the maledictions which we visit upon these other pests, especially the mosquito which we have in this locality, quite as pestiferous and rapacious though possibly not as large as the far-famed Jersey breed. Along the river banks and sloughs they breed most prolifically.

But these we can and do evade to a great extent, the mosquitoes by avoiding their habitats, and the ants with certain simple preventatives or annihilators. But the insects and pests that come periodically and ravage the grain and vegetable crops and those that ruin not only the fruit, but also the trees and shrubs and do such incalculable damage, seem to be beyond human annihilation.

Man with all his boasted intelligence, inventive genius and scientific research, seems utterly incapable of exterminating any of these pests. Thousands and thousands of dollars are spent every year by the Government and private concerns with this object in view, but as far as being successful, the money might as well go up in blue smoke, except that they are making other wonderful discoveries and probably checking the evil to some extent, besides some day they may hit upon the right thing.

One of the most disagreeable features with which the early settlers of this county had to contend was the snakes which infested the swamps and prairies in great abundance. Some of the old settlers' stories of their companionable visits to the families newly installed in the log houses would raise one's hair. They were everywhere and the settlers would encounter them in the most unusual and unheard of places. In the flour barrel, under and in the bed, crawling down the chimney and one old settler told upon opening her oven door in the morning,

there lay a big snake coiled up enjoying the warmth retained in the stove from the fire the night before. They were not only in great abundance, but great variety, among them, blacksnakes, rattlers, bull snakes, water moccasins, blue racers, adders, and the multitudinous garter snakes.

Most of these kinds are only seen occasionally nowadays but the garter, moccasin, and bull snakes are still numerous. But to return to the beautiful and interesting flora.

The most striking feature of this western prairie country is the great variety and abundance of its wild flowers and different kinds of grasses. Much of the original prairie and slough grasses have entirely disappeared since the cultivation of the soil. Although the scenery of Iowa is monotonous compared with other states, the flora ranks among the very first. From early in the spring, almost as soon as snow leaves the ground, the first spring flowers appear, the soft, pretty pussy willow, the beautiful crocus, the delicate anemone, the dainty wind flower, the shy, sweet violet, the modest little butter-cup and the bold, saucy, dandelion, all vie with each other as to who shall be first to bear the tidings that "Spring has come." Usually pussy willow and wind flowers are the first messengers. Then from June on through all the summer there is a perfect riot of bloom; and autumn, too, is one blaze of glory with the gorgeous yellows and purples of golden-rod, daisies, and wild asters until snow comes again and "pale, concluding winter comes at last and shuts the scene."

To be sure, we do not have the lavish profusion of wild flowers that once bedecked the prairie, it is only along the railroad tracks and river banks and where the land seems almost untillable, that we see them in any great abundance, but even now we have more than most states. The strenuous cultivation of the fields has completely routed the original flora from their native haunts and many of them have become entirely extinct.

It is to be deeply regretted that this is the case; if only there could be some precautionary measure taken to prevent such extermination as in the case of our native game. Why not have closed seasons and flower preserves for this purpose? We cannot leave this chapter without naming some of the beauties of our wild estate.

Besides the flowers which we have previously named, as early spring comers, are the blossoms of many of our shade and fruit trees which sometimes appear very early, if the season is advanced. The hard and soft maple, the elm, oak, basswood, boxelder, walnut, scarcely worthy of notice compared with the beauty and gorgeousness of the fruit trees, such as the plum, choke-cherry, and most beautiful of all, the wild crab-apple, whose exquisite blossoms bear such a wonderful promise of lusciousness, but "beauty is only skin deep" according to ancient lore, and this beauty is not even skin deep. One would scarcely believe it possible that such a fragrant, beautiful blossom could develop into such an ugly, sour, gnarly apple, called cow-crab.

Other spring flowers are the hepatica, or liverwort, blood-root, whose dark red juice stains indelibly and was used by the Indians for painting their faces,—dogtooth violet, May-apple, Dutchman's breeches, so appropriately named, but sometimes called squirrel's corn because of the cluster of small yellow bulbs which resemble corn, true and false, Solomon's seal, so named because of the scars on the root which suggested the seal of Israel's wise king, the false Solo-

mon's seal is commonly called wild lily of the valley, the jack in the pulpit, a freakish flower and said to be a poor relation to the beautiful and stately calla lily. Harebells, those dear little flowers that grow in the crevices of rocks where there seems to be really no soil to support them, the March marigold or cow-slips, wild ginger, wild geranium or cranesbill, bluet, Indian tobacco, bell-wort and louse-wort, blue-eyed and star grass, Jacob's ladder, or wild blue-bells, bulbous cress, shooting star, Creeping Charley or ground ivy, wild strawberry, bird-foot violet, wood sorrel, five finger, Columbine or wild honey-suckle, wild oats, hairy puccoon or Indian paint, purple flebane or pink daisies, yellow vetch, wild pea, golden Alexander, sheep sorrel, and the rare and exquisite lady slipper which is first cousin to the orchids, and probably dozens more are all spring flowers and every year some twenty-five or thirty of these lovely blossoms are classified, pressed, and mounted as specimens for botany herbariums.

Then, the summer bloom is really too numerous to mention, but first of all and commanding most attention on account of its wonderful beauty and fragrance is the wild rose, our own state flower, the wild phloxes or Sweet Williams, wild sun-flowers, and so called wild daisies or Black-eyed Susans of which there are many varieties, bouncing Bet, white or red clover, wild primrose, Indian plantain, wild snapdragon, or butter and eggs as the children call it, wild cucumber, horse balm, catmint, bears grass, Spanish bayonet, and the yellow and white pond lilies, the iris and flag and other water plants, and all the many different species of ferns which grow in rank profusion along the river banks are all a part of summer's loveliness. And in the fall there is still no dearth of variety and beauty. The fall flowers are the most gorgeous and showy of all. The fields and roadsides are one splash of rich and gaudy color, yellows and purples predominating.

At this season of the year the beautiful, feathery golden-rod flourishes, there are about forty different varieties of this flower and it grows in nearly all, if not every state in the Union, hence was selected as our national emblem and many varieties grow in this state. It certainly is one of the most satisfactory flowers for it blooms for so long a season and its flowers last so long, even when picked.

The wild asters and white and yellow daisies, wild sun-flowers, yellow cone-flower, milk weed, fringed gentian, rosin plant, purple thistles, and prairie plumes lend their beauty to enhance autumn's glory.

In speaking of flora that are extinct, or rather fast becoming so, we would mention the lady slipper, which is rarely found now, and the exquisite white pond lilies which used to grow so profusely in all the sloughs and bayous, north of Independence, are growing more and more scarce; the maiden-hair fern now only grows in the most secluded spots—and many more will soon be exterminated.

Nothing could be more interesting than the study of birds and flowers but we must not entirely neglect the forest trees which are indigenous to this country—there are many, although this is not what is known as a timber country.

At the time of settlement, the only timber was along the streams and this was ruthlessly cut for fuel and building purposes as that was the only available substance they had to burn, or with which to build. Huge trees were hewn for log houses, it was several years before stone was utilized, and even more before lumber was hauled in for building, but even though the early settlers ravished the native timber they began immediately to replenish it by planting about their

houses trees of the quick growing species, and whole groves were planted on the prairies for wind breaks and for shade and shelter for stock. The soft maple, cottonwood and poplar, mostly the latter, were the first trees planted. Although the sandy, alluvial soils of the river valleys have the most congenial conditions for the cottonwood and white or soft maple, they grow with astonishing rapidity upon all varieties of soil found in the state, and flourish as well on the prairies as in the valleys as does also the willow which we see planted along the line fences for borders but which was not mentioned in connection with the early growth. The box-elder is also a quick grower and much used. The Osage orange also was planted to some extent for hedge purposes but did not prove satisfactory. They become a perfect tangle and spread so that they have been destroyed more or less and grow but few places in the county. The catalpa is now the most popular, quick growing tree used for posts, and we believe is more extensively planted than any other.

From the previous Buchanan history, we quote, "although the use of coal, both hard and soft, has greatly increased throughout our state, in the past ten years, yet it is doubtless true, now, as it always has been, that wood is the principal and preferred fuel of our people generally, and that if it were everywhere found in sufficiently large quantities, they would probably never care to change their established habits in the use of fuel, by discarding it for any other." And it further goes on to state, "that it was feared by many, that the amount of fuel which Iowa could be made to produce would not be sufficient to meet the wants of the prospective inhabitants that her fertile soil is capable of supporting in plenty," but that authority considered those fears were utterly groundless, in view of the fact that there had been recent extensive discoveries of coal and peat in the state, and that alone would be sufficient supply, but in addition to this there would be a great plenty, at least, for domestic purposes, for all the present and prospective inhabitants, produced from the soil alone, by the growth of forest trees.

The preceding paragraphs but demonstrate the shortsightedness of humans, who with their little finite minds cannot estimate a future, and if perchance some wizard makes bold to prophesy some wonderful, startling thing that will transpire, his generation scoff and ridicule and judge him to be unbalanced. But with all the wonderful discoveries and inventions and fulfillments of ancient prophecies in the past twenty-five years we are no less prone to scoff.

The idea that Iowa could produce enough wood or even coal for fuel for all prospective inhabitants, was demonstrated years ago, to be utterly inadequate for all their needs and this is further proved by the continued high price of wood in spite of its abundance, the thousands of earloads of coal, both hard and soft, which is shipped in from other states, besides the extensive mining in our own state, and also the great amount of manufactured fuels, such as gas of several kinds, gasoline, kerosene, and electricity. To be sure, wood is on the market for fuel nowadays but it is the rarest exception to find anyone burning it, and it is considered next to electricity, the most extravagant of all fuels. Even for building purposes, cement and cement blocks, stucco, brick, and stone are fast taking the place of lumber in many parts of the country. Stucco and cement are particularly popular other places. Either climatic conditions or a lack of knowledge about these materials seem to be unfavorable to an extensive use

of them for building, in this immediate vicinity. Probably in the future they will constitute the chief building material.

What timber is cut off is mostly used for fuel by those fortunate enough to own it, and some of the better kind is sawed into lumber. Undoubtedly there will come a time when it will be impossible to buy any of native growth. Almost the only timber being cut at the present time is to thin out the undergrowth, and for the purpose of cultivating the land which farmers deem too high priced to lay idle as timber land and just used for pasture purposes.

In reading some old county papers, we found where corn had been used for fuel because it was so much cheaper and easier to get. The writer of this article referred to had burned several loads of it in the City of Independence in the winter of 1872-3 and found it both pleasant and much more economical, even in a county as well wooded as Buchanan. The editor said some conscientious people objected to the use of a food product for fuel, but he maintained that corn was eaten to produce the warmth of the body (a body fuel) and that when it was consumed in a stove the result was analogous, if not identical; and he believed that when it was so cheap, it was more economical for fuel than any other, and that was proof sufficient, it was not needed for food, and it was better to burn it in stoves for the comfort and enjoyment of humans, rather than turn it into "liquid fire" for the destruction of human happiness and virtue and even life itself.

We can scarcely imagine a time when corn was of so little value that it was used as fuel, when now, even though we are known as the corn growing state and produce more bushels than any other state in the Union, and Buchanan County has almost one-half of her entire cultivated acreage in the production of this cereal—the demand elsewhere would not allow of its being used for such a purpose.

In those early days, even though the supply of corn might be great and the market demand just as great, the lack of any, or poor shipping facilities would govern the prices, and there being so little stock in the country the production far exceeded any demand for home consumption, so necessarily it must be utilized in other ways.

Now, some people are thankful to have even the cobs to burn. In the country where the corn is shelled, the farmers burn them lavishly while in the town the flouring mill is the only accessible place to get them, so they are used more sparingly.

For fuel woods of course the hard woods are far preferable because of slower growth and hence more compact; the several species of oak, elm, walnut, and hickory are fine, both for the heat they contain and because they are consumed slowly. The cottonwood, poplar, basswood, maple, etc., are popular for summer use, making a quick fire and one that burns out soon. Hickory is considered the very best, making a fine fire and very little ash, while cottonwood is the poorest, a quick burner and much ash. The names of trees following appear in the order of their estimated rapidity of growth, cottonwood, white maple, catalpa, willow, elm, oak. It is a noticeable and alarming fact that much of the native timber is dying out from some unaccountable cause. Everywhere this is evident along the banks of the Wapsie, especially above the first bridge the banks are lined with dead trees, mostly willows and elms, but this is owing



to the dam at Independence maintaining a higher stage of water than formerly and actually drowning them out. Even the willows which are purposely destroyed along the roads, added much to the beauty of the river and their dying is much to be regretted. Ants and other insects destroy many trees. Just now many residents of Independence are employing a scientific forester to "doctor" their diseased trees and it is truly wonderful what methods are employed to save their "patients."

But to discuss all the different woods for fuels is rather a waste of time, considering that we are burning less and less of it each year. In giving the reasons for this, one of the most important was omitted and that is the high price of labor. Even those who own timber land and would be glad to burn the wood, cannot afford to pay the extreme prices for both the cutting and the hauling.

Oak wood sells for \$6.00 a cord and at least \$2.00 for sawing, preparing it for the stove and piling, making it a high priced fuel in comparison to coal, some varieties of soft coal being sold for \$3.50 per ton, which we think extremely high. On consulting the records of 1862 to 1864, we find the regular selling price was \$6.00 to \$8.00 per cord for oak. One year the county contracted for wood at \$9.00 per cord. This seems almost improbable considering the comparative abundance of it then and its value a short time previous, but even at that price it was next to impossible to get it, no teamster could be hired and no farmer could spare the time, labor was too scarce and too high priced (\$2.00 per day) to pay for cutting wood. For months this condition existed and the town people would surround a load of wood as though it were gold nuggets and the bidding waxed fast and furious till prices became exorbitant. One cold day in January, 1862, a load brought into Independence was bid up and sold for \$14.00, which was equivalent to \$18.00 a cord but this was an exceptional case and only reached this extreme price on account of the improvidence of those early settlers. The editor's plea for a jag of wood "claiming he had been burning one old gnarly knot for weeks and weeks" is rather amusing reading now. In 1865 a wood market and measure was established by the city and D. S. Deering was appointed wood "surveyor," this being a new office created because of the difficulties and disagreements over the size "of a cord of wood."

The most of the wood is used for fence posts and some little lumber is sawed, although it is of an inferior grade. Wood sawing machines that can saw many cords of wood a day, now are operated in the country and saw up enough fuel in one day for an entire winter's burning.

In the original natural growth of trees indigenous to this county, the principal kinds, in order of their abundance were, the oaks, several species, cottonwood, elm, white maple, linden, hickory, sugar maple, and black walnut, cherry, butternut, ash, and others but in recent years the relative abundance in the natural growth has somewhat changed the black oak, hickory, elm, white maple, box-elder, cherry, black walnut, oak, sugar maple, and others.

For artificial groves and wood lands undoubtedly the white maple is the most used, with black walnut almost as popular, while for general use especially in the towns, the elm is the greatest favorite exceeding the oaks in use because they are of quicker growth, although the oaks are considered the tree of all trees.

The following catalogue is of the principal indigenous trees of this county: *Acer dasycarpum*, white or soft maple; *acer saccharinum*, sugar or hard maple;

*carya alba*, hickory; *carya amara*, pignut hickory; *celtis occidentalis*, hackberry; *cerasus serotina*, black wild cherry; —————, choke cherry; *fraxinis Americana*, white ash; *gleditschia triacanthus*, honey locust; *juglans cinerea*, butternut or white walnut; *juglans nigra*, black walnut; *negundo aceroides*, box-elder; *platanus occidentalis*, button-ball or sycamore; *populus monilifera*, cottonwood; —————, poplar; *populus tremuloides*, aspen; *quercus alba*, white oak; *quercus imbricaria*, laurel oak; *quercus macrocarpa*, bur oak; —————, red oak; *quercus tinctorial*, black oak; Americans, linden or basswood; *ulmus Americana*, common or white elm; *ulmus fulva*, slippery or red elm; *prunus strobus*, white pine, which formerly grew along Pine Creek; shagbark hickory, bitternut hickory, water birch, *juniperus Virginiana*, red cedar, in scattered localities on the Wapsie; *prunus Americana*, wild yellow or red plum, and the *prunus Coronaria*, American crabapple, both of which grow in great profusion and in almost every thicket and natural timber, the hawthorn, blackhaw, willow and bittersweet, and the Virginia creeper or common woodbine, wild grape and other vines, also grow in profusion in the native woods.

#### GAME QUADRUPEDS

In connection with this chapter of flora and fauna, we must devote some space and time to the game which was so plentiful here in the early days that it was known as "Hunter's Paradise," but that title has long since become obsolete. Of the game quadrupeds, the elk, buffalo, bear, deer, rabbit, and squirrel were found here in more or less abundance, but all have disappeared except the last two named, which on account of their small size and habits of concealment have successfully eluded the hunter's gun and every other exterminating device.

Both buffaloes and elks were rather scarce when the county was first settled, although in some of the surrounding counties they were quite numerous. About the early '60s marked the entire disappearance of the buffalo in Iowa and the elk followed but a little later. Asa Blood, Jr., one of the earliest pioneers shot a fine elk on what is now Oakwood Cemetery, in Independence, on the 2nd of December, 1848. Mr. Blood was the only male adult left in the settlement, all the others having gone off on an elk hunt, which he was prevented from joining by an attack of fever and ague, the prevalent disease of new countries. It would almost seem as if the animal out of compassion for the young hunter's privation had come of its own accord to give him a chance for a little sport, in spite of "Old Shaky's" interdiction. He seized his gun and after a few minutes pursuit came upon the animal and succeeded in killing it. It was a doe and when dressed weighed 600 pounds, which he distributed among the few families of the settlement. That same fall his father, Asa Blood, Sr., purchased a herd of seven buffalo and seven elk of the Quasqueton hunter, Rufus B. Clark, for about five hundred dollars. Clark had captured them when calves, two or three years before, twenty or thirty miles west of there, sometimes as far as Ackley. One such trip was made by Rufus Clark, James Biddinger, and two others who took with them a team, one cow and horses to ride and returned with three young elks. Then in the spring of 1844, Clark, Kessler and several others started out on a buffalo and elk hunt, taking several cows, tents, fast horses, ox teams,

to haul their loads and provisions to last six weeks. They returned with eleven buffalo and seven elks. Only one buffalo and two elks lived, it was so late in the season when they started they had to chase them so much they died from over-heat. So in the spring of 1845 the party started out earlier, and took more cows. They were gone seven weeks and came back with a fine drove of young calves, seven elks and four buffaloes lived. Clark kept the first one that was captured until it was three years old, but it got so cross he had to kill it. The others were sold to Asa Blood, Sr. He broke the elks to harness and drove them to a sleigh. They would go as far as you would like to hold the lines on a cold day but could not be taught to back.

The pioneers' method of capturing the calves of the buffalo and elks was quite a novel one. They would go out early in the spring when the calves were young and follow the herd until the calves got tired and lagged behind and then capture them with a lasso. They always took cows along on which to suckle the calves until they were old enough to feed on grass. After a few days they would follow the cows wherever they went and in this way they would bring their captives home or else in pens on their wagons where they soon became as tame as their foster mothers.

Mr. Blood drove his herd to Milwaukee and there put them on exhibition. While in Milwaukee they were fed upon malt from a still house and this, although somewhat nutritious contained more or less alcohol which intoxicated them if they ate too much of it. One of the buffalo cows leaped upon a platform where there were several open barrels of this food and ate so much that she became furious, broke into the pen where the elks were kept and actually killed three of them before she could be gotten away.

From Milwaukee, they were taken to Racine and exhibited there four weeks. The proceeds from these exhibitions defrayed all expenses and the animals were afterwards sold for \$1,100.00 to a Mr. Officer, who took them East. Arriving at Chicago at the time of some great political meeting, he killed one of the fat buffalo cows and gave a public dinner at which buffalo meat fried, stewed, and roasted was the principal attraction. It was said that the sale of tickets to this entertainment amounted to more than enough to pay for the entire herd.

Deer, at first, were so numerous and so bold that they would occasionally come into the settlement. One was killed by Asa Blood, Jr., on the spot where the Independence Flour Mill now stands. It had swam across the river and landed near the saw-mill that stood near where the flour mill now is. He used to kill from ten to twenty-five every year without going out of the county, but after a while they began to grow scarce and they had to go further north and west to hunt them. Mr. Ingalls, T. J. Marinus and A. Barnes took a hunting trip in the early winter of 1864, went forty-five miles up the Wapsie and brought back six deer, four or five dozen partridges. Venison was often on the market and it was not an unusual sight to see deer hanging in front of the stores on Main Street in those days. And they had all disappeared about the year 1871. Asa Blood, Jr., and his brother, Amos R., killed the last that were ever seen in this county, in December, 1871. There were three of them, two does and a fawn, which were first seen about two miles southeast of Independence. They went after them with rifles but no dogs and killed the two does, but the fawn escaped

for that day, but was killed the next day on a farm about two miles from the place where the does were killed.

Bears were never numerous in this county, on account of the lack of native forests, and there have only been two killed, at least, that got honorable mention. Doctor Brewer, one of the oldest settlers, said that he personally knew of but one bear being killed in the county after he came and that one was killed in 1843 or 1844, by Rufus B. Clark, in the woods of the Wapsie, in Newton Township. There was another killed in the fall of 1859 by Joel Allen, father of the authoress, in Jefferson Township, near the old John Bowder place. Joel Allen with Wellington Town and E. S. Wilson were on their way to help a neighbor thresh when they espied the big black bear. Town kept watch of bruin while Allen went to one of the neighbors for a gun. He returned with the gun and finally killed the bear. A detailed description of this bear story was given by Mr. James E. Jewel, now a resident of Fort Morgan, Colorado, who, though but a youngster at the time, joined in the chase and was there at the finish of the monster.

Bears had previously entirely disappeared from this part of the country, but for some unaccountable reason returned in the fall of 1859, probably like the Indians, to revisit the graves of their ancestors and all of the counties around here were visited by some members of this classic race. No doubt Mr. Bruin had been haunted by dreams of his dear fatherland, visions of those enchanted and sacred spots which goaded him to undertake this last journey. It certainly could not have been for marauding or even just foraging purposes, else the farmers in the northwestern part of the county, where he probably entered along the Wapsipinicon, would have detected his presence. But he was a cautious old fellow and evaded all human habitation until we hear of him about two miles east of Brandon, on the prairie. When Joel Allen notified the neighbors, about forty men and boys, all without guns, but plenty of dogs, started in pursuit. Bruin was so fat and heavy that a man could easily outrun him but neither men nor dogs ventured very near him. One dog with an unusual reputation for ferocity was set upon him but when the dog got about ten feet away, the huge beast rose upon his hind legs, standing six feet in height, and fiercely showed his teeth and claws, the canine gave one yelp of mingled fright and despair and fled precipitously with his tail between his legs.

However, the excited crowd managed to keep the bear surrounded for about three hours, till Joel Allen got back from J. Wilson's with a rifle and succeeded in killing the dangerous intruder, but not until he had fired three bullets into his huge carcass.

It was found he weighed over three hundred pounds and its paw measured  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches across the bottom. The meat was divided among all the neighbors. This is the last true Buchanan County bear story.

#### GAME BIRDS

The game birds found here by the first settlers were the wild turkey, prairie chicken, partridge, or pheasant, quail, wood-cock, snipe, wild goose, brant, swan, white crane, pelican, sand hill crane, and ducks of several species. Of these, the last seven are water-fowls and birds of passage and only made this place a migra-

tory eall on their flights north and south in the spring and fall, having their nesting place farther north.

Ducks and geese visit their native haunts here in more or less abundance and furnish good sport for the hunters for a short season both spring and fall.

Wild turkeys were in great abundance and were seen in flocks of as many as a hundred, but they have entirely disappeared. The history of this magnificent bird is very remarkable; it was a native of this country and unknown to the eastern continent and being so well adapted to domestication and so excellent for food, it has been introduced into nearly every civilized country in the world. The wild species are black or very dark, but their color has changed since they have become domesticated, but its size has not increased nor the quality of its meat improved.

The mallard ducks are about the same as the tame species, and can readily be distinguished from it, but the wild goose, though easily domesticated, is an entirely different species from our common tame goose. The quail, partridge, prairie chicken, snipe, and woodcock for a time after the settlement of this county became more plentiful but constant slaughtering by hunters, and a lack of safe hatching, has made all of these kinds scarce.

Early settlers tell of enormous flocks of wild pigeons that for several years visited this county and then for some strange unaccountable reason one year failed to return and have never revisited these haunts since and never could be traced. Some said they went north and the winter was so severe, and food so scarce that cold and hunger destroyed the very species. In June, 1858, the sportsmen of Independence were having rare sport shooting them, thousands having congregated in the fields about town, the Cobb pasture just west of Independence being literally alive with them.

An old settler told us about the sand hill cranes that used to visit this county every fall in their migratory flights south for the winter. They would come in small flocks and in their particular haunts, the sand hills, from which they derived their name, and perform the most peculiar and interesting dance, forming a sort of circle, then balancing back and forth alamand left and circling right resembling the figures of a cotillion, flapping their wings and seeming to thoroughly enjoy the terpsichorean art quite as much as humans. Once the pioneer, being curious as to whether sand hill cranes were fitted to edible purposes, killed one which happened to be an old bird. His wife undertook to prove that such was the case so she put the fowl into the washboiler, the only available utensil large enough to hold "his highness," and like the proverbial Mrs. Finney with the turnip, she boiled him, and boiled him and boiled him for several days, two or three days at least, but he still refused to yield to the piercing of a fork and no tooth however sharp and wolfish could masticate or even make an impression on his tough old hide, and all the Fletcherizing (even though it were not invented, or rather, copyrighted, in those days) could not make the meat digestible, so he was summarily dismissed from their intended bill of fare. The next year, however, the pioneer determined to see if a young bird could not be tempered to man's use, so he killed a real young one and the same coaxing fire and patience were tried on him but to no avail. He seemed to stiffen and congeal with every hour, so he succumbed to the same fate as his paternal and maternal ancestor and proved a tempting morsel for the pig family. In April, 1858, Mr. Beebe, of

Quasqueton, shot a swan near that place measuring eight feet between the tips of the wings, five feet seven inches in length and weighing twenty-nine pounds.

The fur bearing animals of this county, when the settlers came were the otter, beaver, mink, raccoon, muskrat, wolf, fox, badger, skunks, occasionally a martin, lynx, or wild-cat and rarely a panther. Some of these have entirely disappeared, but skunks and muskrats are numerous and some minks, foxes and wolves and occasionally a raccoon are still found. In 1880 a large gray fox was killed by Mr. W. W. Gilbert near Greeler's Grove. This species had seldom or never been seen in this region before, and the presence of this one is quite a mystery, and as late as 1898 there was a sort of return of the furry animals—a large fox, a cross between the red and gray species, was caught on Otter Creek by Dan Clark—and numerous mink and otter had been caught along on the Wapsie, and in November, 1898, a large, full grown mink was caught in the dooryard of the Leytze home, Second Street northeast. The family had been missing chickens, and by setting a trap this trouble was obviated. Beavers were quite numerous in this county, making their ponds by damming the small streams that emptied into the Wapsie. Mr. Blood, the hunter, gave an example of their wonderful industry that he had personally observed.

A short distance below Independence, near the mouth of a small stream emptying into the river, grew a thick grove of young ash trees averaging about six inches in diameter and covering an acre of ground. All these trees were cut down in about six weeks' time and most of the limbs were cut off and dragged into the beaver pond near by. The beavers were caught principally for their fur but some of the pioneers ate them. The muskrat too was trapped for its fur. Mr. Blood had gotten as many as three or four hundred muskrat in one season, while if he secured ten otters, an equal number of beavers and twenty or thirty minks in the same time he considered he had made a good catch. In 1863, large numbers of muskrats were killed in their lodges north of Independence. Prime skins were worth 20 cents then. For years different Indian tribes came here to hunt and trap. Often as many as a hundred of the Musquakie tribe encamped north of Independence and trapped muskrats.

In 1880, both the county and the state were seeking to exterminate the wolf, wild cat, and lynx by offering a bounty for their destruction. The state had fixed the bounty at \$1.00 but permitted the supervisors of any county to increase it to \$5.00, and the Buchanan County supervisors were at that time paying \$3.00 for each scalp, provided a sufficient proof was furnished that the animal was killed in the county and within a specified time before presenting the scalp. Besides the bounty the skins were very valuable. The lynx and the wild cat found here were so similar that it is doubtful if there were different species. At first there were three species of wolves found here (the yellow, prairie wolf; the gray, timber wolf; and the black wolf sometimes called the blue). The last two species were very numerous but soon disappeared. They were large and powerful animals and quite disposed to be friendly with the settlers' dogs—sometimes coming right into the settlement to play with them. The prairie wolf, though not as numerous as at the beginning of settlement, yet as late as 1880, in spite of a bounty, had decreased but little in ten years. They were very troublesome to the farmer's sheep fold, sometimes killing an entire flock in one night. As late as May, 1865, "a box of young wolf cubs was shipped from Buffalo

Township, where they were caught, into Wisconsin. This county and Buffalo Township particularly had been largely stocked with sheep from Wisconsin and this was a pleasant exchange, wolves for sheep."

In June, 1873, the supervisors paid the bounty on thirty-five wolves, in January, 1879, on twenty-three, and in June, 1880, on forty-eight. During the whole year of 1880, they paid bounty on sixty-eight lynxes, and in 1863, on eight wild cats.

The latest account that we have of a wild animal hunt being held in Buchanan County was in March, 1866, when a "Grand Wolf Hunt" was held by the citizens of Quasqueton. The boundaries were established and the laws and rules of the game made as follows: Eight captains were elected, no one was allowed to carry fire arms except the officers, the other hunters carried clubs, spears, and pitch-forks and numerous dogs were in the chase. A signal gun was fired at Quasqueton at 9 o'clock A. M., then one by each officer as a signal to start the fun. Two wolves were all that were routed out and these escaped, on account of lack of forces (there had been such heavy rains that many could not attend). But not to lose all the anticipated sport, the would-be hunters bought a captured wolf, and after setting about a hundred dogs upon it and they failed to kill it, the animal was tied up as a target and shot. (This was in the days before the existence of humane societies.)

No bounty was ever offered here for the killing of bears, foxes, or panthers. Bears had practically disappeared before the county was organized, foxes were never sufficiently numerous to make their extermination a matter of importance and it is doubtful if a panther was ever seen in this county, at least after the advent of the first white settler. Mrs. Herman Morse, now dead, who was formerly Mrs. Frederick Kessler, one of the earliest pioneers, told that soon after the settlement was begun at Quasqueton some of the men who had lived among the mountains of Pennsylvania and had heard that peculiar and unmistakable scream of the panther, declared that they had heard one in the timber near the Wapsie, but this is the only one ever mentioned.

Another predatory animal which the county authorities sought to exterminate was that destructive little burrower, the "pocket gopher," by offering a bounty of 10 cents for each scalp. It has afforded lots of amusement as well as profitable employment for the boys, who in those early days sometimes brought in as many as a hundred thousand scalps a year. This bounty amounting to a thousand dollars a year was too great a tax, especially as there seemed to be no prospect of its diminishing, so the supervisors withdrew the bounty for a few years, but when they increased to alarming extent they again offered a bounty.

Another animal on which there is a bounty now is the ground hog. There has been a bounty on wolves and pocket gophers and on ground hogs for a good many years, and strange as it may seem, there is scarcely ever a year but that bounties are paid on wolves. The 1909 financial report shows \$92.00 bounty on wolves, \$186.00 bounty on ground hogs and \$233.00 on pocket gophers. The report of 1910 shows \$25.00 bounty on wolves, \$996.35 bounty on ground hogs, \$292.70 on pocket gophers. Report of 1911 shows \$124.00 on wolves, \$755.35 on both ground hogs and pocket gophers. Report of 1912, \$56.00 on wolves,

\$211.00 on ground hogs, \$186.00 on pocket gophers. Report of 1913 shows \$71.00 on wolves, \$250.50 on ground hogs, and \$149.50 on pocket gophers.

#### FISH

Fishing has always been good in the Wapsie, being very abundant when the settlers first came, and continuing good until dams were built, then for some years before it became the prerogative of the Government to re-stock the streams it was somewhat depleted of game fish at least, but since the establishment of the Government Fish Hatcheries we receive a fresh supply of game fish whenever we deem it necessary to petition for it. Since the present game and fish law went into effect a number of years ago, we have a very faithful and efficient deputy game warden in the person of W. C. Ballou. He is always on the job and is a conscientious and impartial dispenser of fines.

The principal kinds of fish found in the county streams in the early days were the black bass, striped bass, pike, pickerel, mullet, or redhorse, suckers, sunfish, rock bass, pullpong, or bullhead, as it is now called, catfish and muskalonge. All of these are found here now in more or less abundance except the muskalonge. According to "fish" data in 1880, the catfish were so scarce in the Wapsie that one had not been caught for three or four years, and the muskalonge had disappeared ten or twelve years before, and has never been seen here since, but catfish weighing ten and twelve pounds and sometimes as much as fifteen pounds are often caught now and pickerel weighing from eight to twelve pounds are not infrequently caught.

Mr. W. M. Woodward, one of the hardware merchants of Independence, has made it a practice for about twenty years to give a valuable prize for the largest fish of certain species caught in a season—formerly he offered a prize for the largest bass, but for the past ten years pike and pickerel were included. This makes an incentive to the sport, as the prizes are always valuable and necessary to the joy and success of the "Isaac Waltons."

Some people think those muskalonge stories of the pioneers are like the proverbial "big fish" tales and that probably the muskie was only a pickerel grown to a large proportion, which may be the facts.

One of the largest fish tales of early days is that Charles Putney, in the winter of 1859, caught a muskalonge in the river near Independence which measured within two inches of four feet in length and weighed twenty-six pounds. In the same paragraph which contained the above announcement, it was stated that Messrs. Smith and Cannon, of Dubuque, had shipped 2,300 pounds of Wapsie pickerel, mostly caught in Buchanan County, a few days before to the St. Louis market. Probably the largest pickerel ever caught in the Wapsie was caught by W. C. Littlejohn when he was a lad of ten years of age. He was fishing from a rock near a riffle when the big fish got out of deep water and commenced floundering about in the shallow water near the shore—Will proceeded to give him a taste of battle and finally landed the monster fish, which, when weighed, tipped the scales at nineteen pounds and eleven ounces. In 1891 or '92, Will Wengert landed one at the mill that weighed sixteen pounds and this fish has held the record ever since. The largest one caught since then was landed by Charles Hathaway, September, 1914, and weighed fourteen pounds, and that same fall



a big channel catfish, weighing twenty-one pounds, was caught in the Wapsie by Will Blondin, of Independence. A recounting of "big fish" stories brings to light many of unusual size. One that is personally vouched for by an eye witness (Mr. Jed Snow), records that Ham Taylor, an old time fisherman, familiarly known as "Buck Hallam," speared a thirty-three-pound muskalonge, just below the dam, near the mill at Independence, and this last fish tale outweighs the Charles Putney "first record breaker" by seven pounds, and probably will have the distinction of being the largest fish for many years to come, unless the tales of the finny tribe grow weighty with age as do the human species. All of these different fish are in our river now with the exception of the muskalonge and the striped bass, which are substituted by the green or Oswego bass, and buffalo, carp, and crappies have been added.

We have many residents who devote themselves almost entirely to fishing and trapping, but more for pleasure than profit, although in some parts of the county the trapping is quite an industry.



## CHAPTER III

### ABORIGINAL INHABITANTS

#### THE MOUND BUILDERS—THE INDIANS

The race of men who first occupied the territory now embraced within the limits of Buchanan County, as well as that of this entire country, is one that can only be answered by conjecture.

The immediate predecessors of the present white inhabitants were the modern Indians or red men. This is the name given to the aboriginal races of America by Columbus, who, searching for a west passage and an ocean route to India, discovered a new continent and a new people, but unaware of this fact, called it and the inhabitants the name of the land of which he was in search. But even prior to the Indians was a race of men whom archaeologists, for want of a more complete knowledge of their history, have named the Mound Builders, and this because of the earth mounds which have been found all over this portion of North America.

Evidences of the work of these prehistoric people are found in many of the eastern states and as far south as Tennessee in great abundance, and are particularly numerous along the Mississippi valley in Iowa, extending from Dubuque at intervals through Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, Louisa and other counties, and as far west as the Little Sioux River. The Des Moines Valley is especially rich in evidences of occupation by the Mound Builders and a good many mounds have been found in this county, which those well qualified to judge on such matters do not hesitate to pronounce the work of that ancient people.

In an old history we find mention of a circular mound several feet high, which was leveled in preparing the foundation for the county jail in Independence, but no relics worthy of note, however, were found in it.

Two circular mounds connected together by a straight embankment were found on the farm known as the Forrester Place, just east of and joining Independence.

Even when that history was written, they were almost, if not quite, obliterated by the constant cultivation of the field in which they were standing. Several earth works, mostly of a circular form, have been discovered along the banks of the Wapsipinicon, but none have ever been found of sufficient interest to attract the notice of archaeologists, so we cannot as yet lay claim to any such historical distinction.

But that the soil of Buchanan County was once occupied by the Mound Builders does not depend for its solution upon the existence here of unmistakable works of that ancient race, since all evidences go to prove it—the frequency and continuity of their earth works along the Mississippi and throughout the state, as elsewhere, must be regarded as settling that question in the affirmative.

Undoubtedly this rich and fertile prairie land was used by them for some good purpose.

Who can tell but that they tilled this same productive soil? We have conclusive evidence, in the varied assortment of relics found in their mounds, that they were a people of numerous and refined industries and accomplishments, the stone and copper implements, axes, knives and awls, the pottery, pipes and altars, carved and adorned and tablets upon which were hieroglyphics representing letters and figures of people, trees and animals, all prove it, and that they even made cloth is proven by the finding of many of their implements wrapped in a coarsely woven fabric strangely preserved through the innumerable ages that have elapsed.

Whether these people cultivated the soil, erected wooden, stone or dirt dwellings, and built towns is not known, as also their number, color, habits, customs and forms of government, how and for what purpose were these enduring earth works of various kinds constructed and a thousand interesting details of the history of these earliest inhabitants of Iowa must forever remain a mystery. Whence they came, how long they possessed the land and from what cause or by whom exterminated, are unanswerable questions that will never cease to have an absorbing interest and to puzzle all succeeding races and generations. The old adage, "The survival of the fittest," does not always seem to obtain, judging from the superiority of the handicraft of the Mound Builders to that of their successors, the Indians, whose work, customs, habits, and mode of life seem much more crude and uncivilized, but that "Might makes Right," is a human law is undeniable and that its dire antithesis "Right makes Might," is as inflexible a universal law, or providential rule, whereby "all things work together for good." So we shall assume that the Mound Builders were inferior to those who succeeded them, and that they in their time were superior to a race or races which preceded them, we will concede. That there was a preceding race which occupied perhaps the entire world is claimed by ethnologists from the fact that similar human skulls, resembling those of the gorilla, having thick ridges over the eyes, and an almost total absence of forehead, indicating a low degree of intelligence, have been found throughout the different countries of Europe, in the states of Illinois and Wisconsin, and in Johnson, Floyd, Chickasaw and Dubuque counties of Iowa.

These inhabitants of the earth were low browed, brute-like, small bodied beings who were more like animals than humans and probably but a grade higher in intelligence. But they occupied these lands of ours in ages so remote and so incalculable to any but students of anthropology, ethnology, archaeology, and the other sciences pertaining to antediluvian periods, that we are not expected in a work of this kind to enter into an exhaustive discussion, or attempt to arrive at definite conclusions concerning them.

Let other historians and scientists who have spent years in study and research figure out who our genealogical ancestors were and trace the progress of man from the anthropoid, tree hanging ape to the splendid physical and intelligent earth, sea, and sky conquerer of the day, if he can, and it can and has been easily done and in more than anatomical likenesses, in certain traits and characteristics they are undeniably similar. All of the monkey tribe are not wild, nor yet in cages; nor are the anthropoids confined to the lower animals; some

humans are manlike only in form, and not even that in manners, besides some of the progeny of these anthropoid ancestors are still tree-hanging, and others should be; and some of our race show decided ear marks, and occasional traits and tendencies of "animi folli" which are conclusive proof of, at least, distant kinship to the ape. He who reads must not be offended at the comparisons, for it is the privilege and principal business of a writer to express his own views of matters, and even though it be matters pertaining to history, fact and fancy are often confused and the historian can but draw his own conclusions, after due deliberation, conscientious study and research, and with as impartial a judgment as is possible, and even with all this painstaking and care mistakes are made and wrong conclusions derived.

In reading numerous authorities on the prehistoric races of people who inhabited this country, we find such varied and contrasting opinions that it is hard to come to any conclusions. Some authorities claim that our present Redmen or Indians are the direct descendants of the Mound Builders with national customs and physical peculiarities changed through the lapse of ages and by various causes and not least of these incessant warfare, and that the fact that they do not build mounds and seem to know nothing of the origin of those structures is not sufficient proof that they are entirely different races of people, as some ethnologists insist.

And this might seem very probable when we consider that each succeeding generation discards old utensils, implements, articles of furniture, and dress, customs, and modes of life which were common to former generations but which now exist only as curiosities and relics of the past, and adopt the modern. And, too, when we consider how family traditions and even important historical events become confused in detail, and sometimes absolutely forgotten, when there is no written record made of them, it is not strange that these people who had no very sure means of transmitting their knowledge from generation to generation should lose all remembrance of their tribal traditions and customs. What would be our dilemma in this present day when history is making at such an unprecedented speed if it were not for the daily papers, the telephone, telegraph, wireless and cable communications and the careful and complete record kept of all events, local and national, even though of minor importance. No wonder that so much of the early history is shrouded in myth and mystery, and nothing seems to be absolutely authentic, when we consider the utter lack of any but local communication, no railroads, or modern electric inventions to transmit the facts.

It therefore behooves us to make written records of family reminiscences and leave behind us the unmistakable proofs of our existence for the sake of historical value to future generations and leave behind monuments that no conquering enemy or disinterested or disloyal progeny can mistake or forget. But to return to the Mound Builders, it seems quite as likely that the remote ancestors of our present North American Indians were the conquerors and not the lineal descendants of the Mound Builders and, therefore, the vast differences in their mode of life, and the utter lack of knowledge of the Indians concerning them, although many of their implements, such as the spear, arrow-head, stone axes, hammers and pipes, are much the same as those used by the present race for a hundred years or more in the early days after this continent was first discovered.

And whether conquered, or disintegrated by the lapse of time or succeeded by a differing progeny, the fact remains that their history is shrouded in mystery, a blank leaf in the records and chronicles of man—a missing link in the endless chain of evolution which shall forever be missing, unless, and it is not at all improbable, further research and exploration of these mounds and antiquities may reveal additional knowledge of this race of people who preceded the Indians in America. And even though we dispose of that much discussed question, there arise others to puzzle us—one quite as intangible is, "Are the Mound Builders descended from the antediluvian species?" If not, where did they come from, etc? and back and back to the origin of man.

But we know this, that the Indians, either as lineal descendants, or as conquerors, or as mere chance successors to land left vacant, came after the Mound Builders, and are the first people of whom we have any definite knowledge. When this happened is as great a mystery as how it happened, but it must have been hundreds of years before Columbus discovered America. It is generally believed, however, that the Mound Builders were assailed by warlike tribes from the North and West, and that the earth works found along the rivers were erected as protection against the enemies, there can be little doubt. And after resisting these invasions for generations, they were gradually dislodged from their homes and strongholds and forced southward and sought a last refuge in the deep gorges of the canyons of the southwest. There they were known as the Cliff Dwellers and the once numerous race finally perished from the face of the earth. The Indians, at the time of discovery and ever since, have been divided into numberless tribes, frequently hostile and always migratory.

The ownership of definite territories by the different tribes was a thing unknown. The temporary occupancy of lands favorable to hunting and fishing or for the cultivation of maize (Indian corn) was usually decided by bloody battles, but the permanent possession of lands with distinct boundaries is an idea which none of these tribes have ever put into practice, except at the dictation of their civilized conquerors.

The United States Government acknowledging, theoretically, the right of the Indians to this domain, has at various times entered into treaties with them, whereby they have ceded certain lands to the Government and accepted others as "reservations," in which they have agreed to confine themselves, and the peaceable possession of which has been guaranteed them by the Government. Thus an ownership more or less permanent has been established and the districts thus reserved have been regarded as the special habitat of the tribes to whom they were assigned.

The Government has entire supervision over the Indians and their lands and tries to protect them against unscrupulous land sharks, bootleggers, and confidence men. They are not allowed to sell their land without the consent of the Government, but even with all these precautions, there are many fraudulent and unprincipled transactions made and every advantage taken of these simple, child-like people. The greedy white man after the most cruel and inhuman treatment and mean deception and trickery drove the Indians out of their homes and confiscated nearly all of the land owned by them, yet he is not satisfied and begrudges them their rich lands, and tries every means to defraud them. Shame upon such civilization.

Buchanan County never having been included within the limits of an Indian reservation, it cannot properly be said ever to have been the special home of any particular tribe; however, its abundant timber and fine water courses have always furnished such excellent facilities for hunting and fishing that the tribes dwelling in this vicinity undoubtedly must often have made it a place of temporary sojourn. And it seems appropriate to this chapter to give a few brief sketches of those tribes, which from the known history of their wanderings, were most undoubtedly at some time or other denizens of this county.

On account of their historical prominence in giving a name both to the state and one of its principal rivers, although they figured much less prominently in the history of this region than several other tribes, we will begin with the Iowa. This tribe is from the Siouan stock and we first hear of them in 1690 when they were found in the vicinity of the Great Lakes. Their noted chief, Mau-haw-gaw, was then at the head of the tribe and under his leadership they migrated westward, crossed the Mississippi and occupied the country about the lower valley of the river which now bears their name, although for a long time afterwards it was called the Ayona by the earliest French explorers. Theodore S. Parvin is the authority for the Indian legend about the name Iowa. He says this tribe separated from the Sae and Fox and wandered off westward in search of a new home; crossing the Mississippi River they turned southward, reaching a high bluff near the mouth of the Iowa River and looking off over the beautiful valley spread out before them, they halted, exclaiming "Ioway," meaning "This is the place." Other authorities say it means "Beautiful Land" and still others that it was the Algonquin name "Ajawa" meaning "Across" or "Beyond." Lewis and Clark in the journal of their explorations, in 1804, refer to this tribe as the Ayonway. In later years the orthography became changed to Ioway and finally the y was dropped and we have the beautiful and euphonious name Iowa.

The Iowa was a migratory tribe, having moved fifteen times back and forth into nearly every section of the state, into Dakota, then into Nebraska, then into Missouri and again into Iowa. After many fierce battles they were finally routed from this state by the Sae and Fox, they wandered around from place to place through Southern Iowa and Northern Missouri and finally were located on a reservation in Nebraska and the few who have survived are now in Kansas and Oklahoma.

The Indians, like the gypsies, Arabs, and the Jews, are a wander-lust people who chase a phantom will-o'-the-wisp. They originally called themselves Pa-hu-cha, which signifies "Dusty Nose." The tradition about this name is that when they separated from the original tribe, they settled near the mouth of a river having large sand bars along the shore. The sand and dust from these were blown into their faces giving them dusty noses, hence their name Pa-hu-cha. A grammar of their language, composed by Rev. S. M. Irvin and Mr. William Hamilton, was published at the Iowa mission in 1848. Their language was that of the Dakota family of which they are a part. This tribe was divided into eight clans, known as Bear, Beaver, Buffalo, Eagle, Elk, Pigeon, Snake, and Wolf; each clan having a totem of the animal or fowl they represented and each clan had a particular method of cutting and wearing their hair.

In 1675 their country was said to be twelve days journey west from Green Bay. In 1700 they were in what is now Southern Minnesota and so, judging from

the reputation which they had gained throughout the West, as being great pedestrians, we can easily imagine their roaming these fertile prairies, fishing and hunting in our streams and forests. It is said that many of their early chiefs bore names indicative of their remarkable endurance in walking and they took great pride in their acknowledged superiority in this achievement. One of their later chiefs, who flourished about the year 1825, was named Manehaua, or Great Walker. The celebrated Jesuit historian, Charlevoix, who gives an account of them about this period of their history, alleges that "they were able to travel twenty-five or thirty leagues a day when alone;" figuring that up it means from 115 to 138 miles and as we are but about sixty miles from the Minnesota boundary it is not a stretch of imagination to think that these "seven-league booted," or moccasined, Iowa chiefs got up early in the morning, came down into Buchanan county for a day's fishing or hunting and walked back home that night.

The Iowa was in early times a very powerful and warlike tribe and often was in conflict with Osage, Sac, and Fox as well as those greatest of Indian warriors, the Sioux. At the beginning of the eighteenth century they numbered about fifteen hundred, but with wars, pestilences, liquor and natural diseases their numbers have been gradually reduced until in the last (the 1910) census, there were left but 334, 246 of whom live in Kansas and 88 in Oklahoma. But this report says that they are "holding their own" and in the year 1906 accomplished more on their allotments than at any time previous.

In 1807 they defeated the Osage, at that time a powerful tribe, and this seems to have been about the last of their military successes. A few years later, the smallpox ravaged their settlement, destroying more than a hundred of their warriors and nearly two hundred women and children. Twelve years later this same dread disease carried off nearly two hundred more of the tribe. Then in 1819 they were attacked by a superior number of the Sioux and defeated after a desperate battle, in which scores of their best warriors were killed and many of their women and children were captured and carried into captivity. Their last battle was fought with the Sac and Fox in 1824. That fierce tribe led by their chief, Pash-e-pa-ho, assisted by the young chief, Black Hawk, who was then a young man unknown to fame, stole down upon the unarmed and defenseless Iowa, who were witnessing a horse race on the river bottom about two miles from their village, and scores were cruelly massacred while making a hopeless attempt to rescue their wives and children from their burning homes. Black Hawk and his division were sent to capture and burn the village and although the Iowa were nerved to superhuman resistance, they were so handicapped without arms, that the remnant of the band left were finally forced to surrender. Their power was broken, their proud spirit crushed, by this disaster and the survivors never recovered from the blow. The renown of this once powerful tribe had departed.

They lingered in despair about the ruins of their village and the graves of their kindred, gloomy and hopeless, and then began a migratory existence through Southern Iowa and Northern Missouri and finally ceased as an independent tribe, to hold any considerable amount of land in the state to which their name had been given. Few of the northern Indians have shown greater aptitude for civilization than the Iowa, although the evil influences surrounding them and other tribes have prevented their making any great progress.



The first treaty of peace between them and the United States was made in the year 1815. Chief Hyingwatha or Hardheart, and some of the subordinate chiefs were the representatives of the Indians. In 1824, another treaty was made, General Clark acting for the United States and the great chief, Mahoskah, or White Cloud, and Manehana (Great Walker) representing the tribe. By this treaty all the lands of the Iowa in what was then known as the Missouri Territory, were ceded to the Government for \$5,500.00, \$500.00 down and the same sum to be paid annually for ten years, the United States agreeing to support a blacksmith at the headquarters of the tribe and to assist them with agricultural implements, horses, cattle, etc. They had at that time several villages on the Des Moines and Iowa rivers, a part of the Sac and Fox being associated with them. As usual, the whites intruded upon their land and led to trouble and complaint. By a treaty formed September 17, 1836, the remnant of the tribe, now numbering nine hundred and ninety-two, left our state forever and removed to a reservation located on the west bank of the Missouri, in the valley of the Little Platte River. But some of them became discontented, and the very next year abandoned the reservation and became vagrants, subsisting by theft or hunting upon the grounds of other tribes. Their numbers have diminished year by year, the chiefs taking the lead in the intemperance from the effects of which vice many died, and many others were killed in the fatal quarrels to which it led.

About the year 1835, the Presbyterians established a mission and manual labor school among these people and kept it up with commendable zeal for more than twenty years. Though much good was accomplished, the effort failed to arrest the steady decay of the tribe and by 1846, they had been reduced in numbers to 706. On March 6, 1861, a treaty was made by which the tribe, now dwindled down to 305 in number, ceded to the United States all their lands except the reservation of 16,000 acres. In 1869, they informally agreed to sell this and remove south; but afterwards retracted their agreement but consented to give part of their lands to the Sac and Fox, who had parted with their reservation. A fine example of charity and forgiveness on the part of the Iowa after the Sac and Fox had so mistreated them. About the time the Presbyterian mission was abandoned, the tribe was placed under the care of Quakers, under whose influence they made considerable advance in civilization, and became more sober and industrious. In 1872, their school numbered sixty-three pupils, more than one-fourth of the entire tribe, and all clad in the garb of civilized life. They had 700 acres of land under cultivation, thirteen frame houses and twenty built of logs. Their produce was estimated to be worth \$2,685, and their stock \$7,900. The Government of the United States still holds \$157,500 as a trust fund for the Iowa; the interest at five per cent is paid annually to the tribe. It is a remarkable fact and one well worthy of record that in 1864, when they numbered in all only 293, the Iowa loyally supported the Union, and forty-one of them enlisted in the United States military service (almost one-fourth of their entire population) and proved to be good soldiers. The military discipline greatly improved these uncivilized savages, they adopted civilized dress and customs.

The next tribe which we will give a brief sketch of is the Sac and Fox, which probably belong more distinctly to the state than any other and we are confident

that they actually trod the soil of Buchanan County—because some of the early settlers told of seeing them here, as late as in the year 1880.

As the name implies, this tribe is a union of what were originally two separate tribes, and the Fox tribe of which we can find the earlier historic mention was also the result of a similar union between two bands, one called Outagamie, which means fox, and the other Musquakie, or men of red clay.

There is evidence to show that early in the seventeenth century the Fox occupied the country along the Atlantic coast, now embraced in the State of Rhode Island. Later they moved to the Valley of the St. Lawrence River, and for ages resided on the south side of Lakes Erie and Ontario, and here is where the French first came into collision with them. They were great fighters and were continually hostile to the French trappers and missionaries who invaded their territory. They seemed to realize that the white man's gaining a foot-hold meant his eventual occupation of the Indian's land. They were nearly the only tribe with whom the French could not live in peace—and so in the year 1712 they commenced war against them with the determination to either exterminate or expel them. Several other tribes had been induced to join forces with the French and a fierce battle ensued in which the Fox after a desperate resistance and the loss of hundreds of their brave warriors were forced to surrender. The French were more magnanimous than the Indians would have been and settled their differences with a treaty of peace with them, but this, however, the restless and untamable Fox soon violated and another expedition was organized against them in 1728 which proved to be a protracted and bloody struggle, waged with varying fortunes and occasional intermissions of truce, and lasting about eighteen years. At length the French and their allies gained a decisive victory in 1746 and the Fox were driven out of the beautiful valley of the river which still bears their name, a memento of their long supremacy in the region about Green Bay. The remnant of the tribe, reduced to little more than three hundred warriors, retreated to the Valley of the Wisconsin River, where they formed a close alliance with the Sac, in the nature of a confederacy, each tribe, however, reserving the right to declare war or peace without the consent of the other. The headquarters of the Fox was at Prairie Du Chien, and the Sac at Prairie du Sac, in Wisconsin. The Fox had villages on the west side of the Mississippi, in Iowa, while the Sac remained on the east side. The Fox could muster about three hundred and twenty warriors and the Sac about three hundred. The Sac had long before occupied the region about Saginaw, Michigan, calling it Saukinong. They called themselves Sau-kies, signifying "Man with a red badge," red being their favorite color for personal adornment. The Indian name of the Fox was Musquakies signifying "Man with a yellow badge." The name Fox originated with the French, who called them Reynors. The river in Wisconsin where these Indians had their home was called "Rio Reynor" by the French, as will be seen on the early French maps and when the English wrested that country from France they gave the river its English translation. The early English writers called the tribe "Reynards." In the latter part of the eighteenth century, the Sac joined the Miami in an attack on St. Louis, but the Fox appear to have remained in the vicinity of the lead mines of Galena and Dubuque, for in 1788 they ceded to Julian Dubuque, for mining purposes, the right to a strip of land northward from the little Maquoketa, in Iowa.

The first treaty made by the United States with the Indians of the Northwest was on the 9th of January, 1789, at Fort Harmar on the Muskinquin River, in Ohio, and the Sac was one of the tribes represented. They had two chiefs representing the territory which embraces Iowa. The object of the treaty was to fix the boundary line between the United States and the several Indian tribes. It was agreed that the Indians could not sell their lands to any person or nation other than the United States; and that persons of either party who should commit robbery or murder, should be delivered up to the proper tribunal for trial and punishment. By this treaty the United States extended protection and friendship to these tribes. When Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike ascended the Mississippi River with his exploring party, in 1805, he found four Sac villages and three Fox; two of them were not far from Buchanan County's boundaries, one was twelve miles this side of Dubuque and one near the mouth of the Turkey River, not so many miles distant but that they must have roamed through these prairies. He reported their entire population as 4,600—1,750 Fox and 2,850 Sac. For some time they were friendly with the Iowa and occupied the same hunting grounds but eventually disagreements sprang up between them, which led up to fierce hostilities and to the final expulsion of the Iowa.

The Sac and Fox had fierce battles with the Winnebago, subduing them and taking possession of their lands but their longest and most bloody war was with those terrible fighters, the Sioux, who had their hunting grounds mostly in Minnesota. Northern Iowa and Southern Minnesota were the scenes of many bloody battles, and as the Sac and Fox are known to have had their villages on the Turkey River in the adjoining counties of Fayette and Clayton, north and north-east of this, it is reasonable to suppose that some of these battles extended in this immediate vicinity, perhaps extended over this very county.

With a view to putting a stop to this devastating war between these tribes, the United States appointed as commissioners William Clark and Lewis Cass to negotiate a treaty with the contending tribes by which it was stipulated that the Government should designate a boundary line between the hunting grounds of the Sioux, on the north, and the Sac and Fox on the south, the Indians agreeing to restrict themselves to the territories thus marked out, but as might have been foreseen, it failed to accomplish the end desired, both tribes infringing on each other's territory, so the Government again interfered in an honest endeavor to establish peace, February 24, 1831, a treaty was ratified whereby the United States bought of the Sioux a strip of land twenty miles wide, lying on the north side of the line established by the first treaty, and on the south side of the same line they bought a strip of equal width which was purchased of the Sac and Fox. Thus, the United States obtained possession and absolute control of a territory forty miles wide and about 200 miles long. This tract is known in history as the Neutral Ground. This arrangement effectually put an end to the bloody encounters between the Sioux and the Sac and Fox, but this Neutral Ground was to be the common hunting ground of both tribes, so long as they respected and maintained in good faith its neutrality, and so it continued for about ten years, when it was made a Winnebago reservation in 1841, but they only occupied it about five years. This strip runs diagonally through the counties north of Buchanan, being only about twenty-five or thirty miles from our northern boundary line.

Afterwards several treaties were made between the Government and this tribe whereby the Indians relinquished almost their entire holdings and the Government became the owner of a vast tract of valuable land. It was then that the rich prairies of Iowa were first opened to the permanent settlement of the whites. This immense tract is known in history as the "Black Hawk Purchase"—not because it was actually purchased of him for he was then a prisoner of the Government, but because it was ceded by the authority of his tribe and was made a part of the conditions of his release. By this treaty of 1832, the Government obtained possession of a tract of land 200 miles long and averaging fifty miles wide, lying along the Mississippi, now constituting the eastern part of the state. From the date of this purchase, white settlers began to pour into this new territory. Then about five years later, in 1838, another treaty was ratified by which the Sac and Fox ceded another tract bordering on that on the west, about the same length and about twenty-five miles wide at the middle portion and containing a million and a quarter acres. At the same time, they relinquished all their lands lying south of the "neutral ground" the United States paying them for the relinquishment of this territory, \$160,000. Buchanan County must have been included in this last treaty, and when we consider that the value of land in Buchanan County alone, according to the 1910 census, was estimated at \$23,772,344, or almost 149 times as much and only 368,000 acres, we realize the advancement in land values.

Chief Black Hawk bitterly opposed and repudiated all these treaties with the whites. He claimed that the chiefs who made them had no authority to dispose of their lands so he determined to avenge their wrongs and commenced warfare upon the whites who had doubtless deceived them, violating the terms of the treaty of 1804. These treaties stipulated that the Sac could remain in undisputed possession of their lands until they were surveyed and sold to white settlers, but while the Indians were off on a hunting excursion, the whites flocked in, seized their land and cabins and when the warriors returned their women and children were homeless and shelterless, which made the old Sac chieftain bitter and revengeful. Since then other treaties have been made with the Sac and Fox and they have several times been removed. In 1872, they were divided into three or four different bands, and were greatly reduced in numbers. The principal band was located in Kansas, another, the Sac and Fox of the Missouri, the band who remained true to the Government during the Black Hawk war, occupied a large reservation in Southeastern Nebraska and Northeastern Kansas, and it was reported that both bands were making considerable improvement in agriculture and the raising of stock.

The last census gives the following report: 343 in Iowa, 630 in Oklahoma, 90 in Kansas, and that there is continued improvement.

In 1857, a party of nearly four hundred Sac and Fox, calling themselves by their ancient name, Musquakie, tired of being moved from reservation to reservation, bought a large tract of land in Tama County, unaided by the Government, which at first refused to assist them in their idea of separate maintenance, but since then, however, they have given them their share of the annuities. They cultivate the best of their land and have raised in a single year \$3,000 worth of produce. They also raise stock, having over \$10,000 invested in the business. They frequently hire out to the neighboring farmers as laborers, and are thus

becoming industrious and self sustaining and they used to often visit this county. Large bands of them would encamp near town and hunt and fish along the Wapsie. In 1863, a camp of one hundred Musquakie came on their hunting excursion. And camps of Winnebago came up from Sands Point to wage war on the Musquakie north of Independence. They were a miserable looking set of wretches, and were abominable beggars. The citizens were very much annoyed by their persistent begging and "light fingered thieving." In the early days the Government made several efforts to civilize and improve the Sac and Fox by establishing schools among them; and several religious denominations tried to establish missions among them, but they clung to their Indian prejudices with even more than the ordinary Indian tenacity. In 1869, Rev. Percival, the writer of the Buchanan County History, was requested by the Episcopal Bishop to visit the Musquakie and ascertain if they were favorable to an Episcopal Mission being established among them. They firmly refused any interference even though for their benefit, alleging that if the Great Spirit had wished them to be like white folk he would have made them white. But now, there are Catholic Missions and Government schools among them.

There are few, if any, of the Indian tribes whose history is more replete with romantic incidents than that of the Sac and Fox. Their great Sac Chief, Black Hawk, was a character much to be admired. He was just to a marked degree, unswervable in his ideas of right and wrong as he understood them, honest in his convictions, courageous and bold, a dauntless and determined leader and whether copper colored or white, deserves the admiration meted a hero. He was said to be as brave as the great chief Tecumseh, and as eloquent as the orator, Logan.

His speeches, after his capture, to General Street, another to President Jackson when he was taken by his captors to Washington, his last speech, made at a 4th of July celebration, at Fort Madison in 1838, in response to a toast given in his honor to "Our Illustrious Guest, Black Hawk," are all evidences of his superiority both in intellect and comprehension. The county just west of Buchanan honored the old chief by its name. But in reading the tragic tales of the Black Hawk wars one cannot help but shudder at the inhumanity and brutality of the United States soldiers and to feel a deep sense of pity and admiration for Black Hawk and his little band of faithful followers.

It is with remorse and sorrow that we learn that the soldiers burned the Indian villages and crops and massacred their women and children and paid no respect to the common civilities of war. Certainly we might learn some degree of honor from these uncivilized savages.

A splendid account of the Black Hawk wars is given in Gries' History of Iowa, where many of these sketches of the Indians were taken. In giving these brief sketches of the Indian tribes, who are supposed to have occupied Buchanan County's prairies at some time previous to its settlement by the whites, we must make a few explanations. There are no accounts of any Indian villages, battlefields, or permanent occupation actually located here that might verify our surmises, but many of the old settlers relate anecdotes and incidents of these tribes visiting this section, either for hunting or fishing purposes or just begging excursions, and we will copy some of the personal sketches of those pioneers from an early history. And furthermore we wish to give credit to the authorities from

which we have gleaned our knowledge. We have been greatly aided by Percival's Buchanan County History, Gries' History of Iowa, and Andreas' History.

It seems to be customary in writing even county histories to give a certain amount of time and space to the prehistoric and Indian races, and we shall follow this custom, although we believe it does not pertain vitally to the history of this county, in any great degree. The knowledge of the facts is too vague and most of what has been written about these peoples in Buchanan County is purely assumption, so we take the same privilege and add our assumption to the rest.

The accounts of the various historians differ greatly and there seems to be no absolute authority on these affairs, or none that is within our reach, so we have tried, to the best of our ability, to give a summary of all. Often we have used the identical language of those historians, as we shall have to, in the following early history of the county and we hope this will be excused when we offer you our reasons, which are, that we consider it excellent in every respect, splendid literary style, very authentic, and better than we could possibly do. All any person can do to write history is, to read every available history on that subject, look up the records and, if possible, consult those in any way participating, and then draw his own conclusions and that is what our aim has been. Undoubtedly mistakes will occur, but our intentions, nevertheless, are good.

## CHAPTER IV

### EARLY HISTORY

#### THE FIRST WHITE MEN—EARLY SETTLERS

It is truly remarkable what changes are wrought in the landscape of a new country such as ours, in a short space of time. As we have remarked in a previous chapter, that through natural causes, such as the fluctuation of streams, the gradual undermining and likewise the upbuilding of certain soils, the ever recurring vegetative growth and decay, the successive seasons with their transforming forces, the natural scenery is more or less affected, but these elements might perform their functions for years, aye for centuries, and yet the landscape would not make such decided and almost unbelievable changes as the hand of man makes in a few months' or years' time. We have but to visit the home of our youth, or if that pleasure is denied us, listen to some old settler, who has returned home after say twenty or even ten years, and note the surprise he evinces at the changes wrought in those few years. I might add, provided he is a Westerner, because it is a note-worthy fact, that there are places in our country, especially in New England and the old South, where things do not materially change from decade to decade.

But nowhere could changes be greater or more pronounced than right here in our own state—when we consider its present condition compared with that of seventy-five or six years ago, when it was first created a territory. Contemplate the wonderful prosperity, the splendid institutions, the great per cent of cultivated land, the enormous value of the products and the splendid character of the people all make this state rank among the first in the Union. And Buchanan has added her share toward making this state-wide prosperity, and making this the veritable garden spot of the whole world. Those sturdy pioneers who came here seventy years ago could not have dreamed of such marvelous changes as have taken place, because of the crude and unskilled methods which were then employed. Modern inventions and scientific research have been the principal means of these gigantic strides in civilization and cultivation.

Just imagine this county in 1842—a vast expanse of rolling prairie like a mighty sea of green, whose wild untrammelled grasses billowed like ocean waves with every breeze, streams whose clear, rippling waters teeming with fish life, flowed peacefully and tranquilly on, undisturbed except for the occasional rhythmic dip of a paddle and the splash of a canoe, or when some dexterous, agile Indian landed a fine specimen of the finny tribe; natural wood lands, whose rank and luxuriant undergrowth was never trod except by some fleet-footed animal

or some stealthy moccasined red man on the chase, whose only echoes were those of wild animals or the guttural speech or war-whoop of the Indian, a country whose only use was a habitat for wild animals and still wilder savages, who challenged the advance of civilization and fought the usurpers of what they deemed were their inalienable rights. The old proverb "Beauty unadorned is adorned the most," is as true in connection with nature as it is of individuals. Dame Nature in her unmolested, undefiled state is far more beautiful and scenic than landscape gardener could conjure or dream. He could not possibly improve her general plan, so he does not attempt it. His duty is but to imitate her patterns and assist her efforts, and join her legions of assistant, correlative forces. Thus did the pioneers of 1842 select this garden spot as an ideal on which to expend their efforts to assist Dame Nature in her well laid plan. And thus, here, the face of nature has not been greatly marred, although very materially changed even in these comparatively few years. The streams have been bridged and dammed and the waters captured for milling purposes, much of the native timber which formerly flourished along their banks has been cut down, either for fuel or mercantile purposes, or to cultivate that rich and valuable land, and groves, either self-seeded or planted by the thrifty western farmer, have sprung up like magic to break the monotonous, far-reaching horizon of early days.

The vast, waving prairies have given place to fenced and cultivated fields; roadways, bridges, houses, churches, schools, and towns dot the landscape but we have not as yet destroyed the scenery with any large cities, with their smoke begrimed manufactories to pollute the atmosphere, their ungraceful, ill-proportioned sky-scrapers, to obstruct the light and the view, their jumbled network of railroads to cut up and disfigure the landscape and their filthy crowded tenements to contaminate and cramp the soul. We are not handicapped with any of these, but we have the purest of air, the best of sunlight, a clear and unobstructed vision and room for expanding and uplifting the soul. We have inherited all these material comforts from our forebears and those heroic pioneers who wisely selected this spot, Buchanan County, as their home-land.

And so let us hand down to our posterity this native soil in as pure and unblemished a condition as that in which we inherited it. Let us not have vain ambitions but be satisfied with the gem which we possess and strive to keep it up to the high standard of morality and intellectuality for which it has always been noted. Let us welcome the home-comer, the new-comer, and the transient guest and make his visit so pleasant that he will seek this spot as a haven of rest and comfort, and finally call it home, sweet home.

"The habits and manners of the primeval inhabitants of any country generally give to it a distinctive character, which marks it throughout after ages."

The lineage of a people, like the genealogy of a family, is commonly considered a matter of little interest and not of vital consequence, except to students of antiquity or ethnology or physiology.

But communities and states and even nations, as well as individuals are the direct out-growth of heredity and environment. Whether considering the life of an individual or a community these two vital forces, heredity and environment, are recognized as the essential motives, the controlling power of the resulting existence.



One certainly cannot understand the nature or significance of the customs, institutions, and social development of a people, or a state, nor their distinctive traits and peculiarities, nor comprehend those forces that determine their modes of life and public concerns, without first studying the sources of those controlling influences. We must look back to preceding generations. A people do not greatly diverge from ancestral characteristics nor easily discard inherited political and social ideas. All the races cling more or less tenaciously to traditional adages and doctrines. Both social and political life may be greatly modified by the necessities of new environment but heredity and ancestral traditions continue to exert a most potent influence. We can no more escape those incontrovertible and governing causes and their resultant effects of past centuries and inherited characteristics from preceding generations than we can escape the influence of our present life and surroundings upon us. Nor can we avoid influencing future generations.

Therefore it is highly important to understand both the material and the process by which a people or community have arrived at their present state. There has always been much discussion over the question in regard to the people and institutions of the state, from which part of the country did Iowa receive her greatest number and most influential pioneers. From what source have her institutions, government, political and social life been derived? Are they the outgrowth of southern or New England influence? Have we, as a state, inherited the intense vitality, the untiring energy and perseverance, the strict adherence to ideals of government, law, morals and religion from the New Englander or, as some authorities claim, inherited the placidity, lack of ambition, a general content with things as they are, a certain inclination to take life easy and not to worry or fuss even if things do not satisfy, which is entirely foreign to the New Englander and could easily have been transmitted to us from the preponderance of southern pioneers. Statistics of 1850 show that nearly six times as many of Iowa's pioneers came from the Southern States as from east of the Hudson and that there were more native born Virginians than there were native born New Englanders altogether, and likewise the number of Kentuckians outnumbered the total number coming from New England, but even those statistics do not convince the majority of authorities who maintain that our state is distinctly representative of New England in its forms and ideas, its political and social and moral life.

So far as this country is concerned, we are not able to give an opinion on what type of people have been the predominating factors in the molding of our community, in view of the fact that numbers do not always denote force.

No doubt, though, that a big majority of the early settlers of this vicinity were from the Eastern States and exerted a great influence, but the foreign born and their posterity have been a very important element in its development.

Following is a brief outline of the different nationalities from which Buchanan County now receives its greatest influence, that is, from a numerical standpoint, at least. According to the 1910 census, there are 12,534 native born whites, 1,996 foreign born whites or 10.1 per cent, of whom 773 are Germans, 315 Irish, 206 English, 168 Danes, and 144 Canadians, besides 394 other foreigners in the county. We notice that there are over twice as many Germans as any other nation-

ality. But we must look back to the pioneers to really find from what sources our political life is derived.

The early settlers immigrating to Buchanan County from the states came, namely, from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and the New England States, possibly more from Vermont than the other New England States. Then there were some of foreign birth, but they did not come in very large numbers until after 1858. They were mostly Germans and Irish, and a few Polanders and Scandinavians.

According to the census of 1847, Buchanan County's entire population numbered but 250 with probably no foreign born.

In 1880, at the time when the Percival History was written, the population was 18,546, and about one-tenth of this number were of foreign birth.

While the census of 1910 recorded our population as 19,748, not much of an increase in thirty years, but we must admit that we have fallen off considerably in the last ten years, having lost 1,679 people since the census of 1900.

In the southeast corner of the county, in Newton Township, along Buffalo Creek, is quite a colony of Irish.

In Fairbank Township, in the extreme northwest corner of the county, in the forks of the Wapsie, there are a good many Irish, German and some Polanders, and between Independence and Quasqueton is what is known as "The Dane Settlement," a thrifty, energetic vicinity. At one time, there were several families living in Independence, the most in the year 1900 when they numbered twenty-six, but they have nearly all left, either for a more equable climate or for the larger cities where there is more employment for their kind of labor and where they can have associates of their own race.

A former historian, in recording the census, reported of the years 1875 and 1880 and noting the very small increase in population, laments the fact that Buchanan had fallen considerably short of holding her own, that this five years' gain was hardly more than the natural increase for one year. Furthermore he accounts for it by the recent opening up of excellent farming lands in Dakota and other western territories. Not only had immigrants from the East passed by and through Buchanan County seeking homes further west, but there had been a considerable emigration from the county for the same purpose. "Whether those who have left have bettered their condition, may well be doubted. But, however this may be, the check this has given our county will doubtless be only temporary. Only the very best lands west of the Missouri can equal ours, and they will soon be occupied. When this takes place, we shall not only keep the natural increase of our own population, but emigration from the still swarming hive of the East will again be directed to our desirable yet unoccupied space; and the comparatively quiet, yet every way pleasant and prosperous times of the present will give place to the activity, enterprise and excitement that come with rapidly increasing population."

We have quoted, "verbatim," a prophecy made regarding the future of this county and reasons for the very apparent lack in its growth at that period.

It is interesting to learn that the same conditions existed thirty-four years ago as prevail today and that we can voice the same lament. His reasoning is faultless. The opening up of Indian Reservations, Government reserves, cheaper land throughout the West and in Canada, a more equable climate, reclamation

of arid lands by irrigation and even an emigration back east to reclaim those farms so beautiful and desirable, though so run down and worn-out that only a thrifty, energetic western farmer could see any possibilities in them and by no means least, the general lack of posterity of our citizens have all been vital factors in reducing our population.

But as for his prophecy, it has held good only in a small degree. We still have comparatively quiet but pleasant and prosperous times and the best of land, but we have not reached "the activity, enterprise, and excitement" that he anticipated for us, but doubtless we would have had it if the tide of immigration had yet been turned in our direction and we could have had the "rapidly increasing population," which with the best of judgment in the year 1881 would have seemed the inevitable outcome of such fertile and desirable land of such a county, of such a state, of such a nation.

And no doubt the time will come for it seems now to be absolutely inevitable considering the vast increase in population in the United States and the constantly increasing influx of foreigners, that these western countries will be swarming with people, that these great immense farming tracts will be divided into small garden patches and that only the enormously rich can afford to be land owners, that every acre will be cultivated and farmed to the limit of its production, not the wanton profligacy and extravagance of the present day farmers with this valuable land. Every acre will be farmed conscientiously, both from the fact of great advancement in knowledge and improved facilities and from the absolute necessity for the maintenance of this thickly populated universe. This is a prophecy, not to occur within either my generation or the next and possibly not for many others succeeding it, but it seems safe to predict such a condition, say in the year 2050.

#### SETTLEMENT

The early history of this county is veiled in much obscurity, but from various sources we have gleaned the following facts, concerning the early settlement.

The first permanent white settler of this county was William Bennett, a native of Maine, who had also been the first white settler of Delaware County. He brought his family here in February, 1842, having built a small log cabin on the site where Quasqueton now stands. The exact spot is said to be a point on the east bank of the Wapsie about twelve rods above the location of the old flouring mill now used as a cream station.

He, with his two hired men, erected this building and a cow stable and completed them in nine days, a short time when we consider the work of clearing the site and hewing all the timber for them. Historians greatly disagree as to his character. One authority who was personally acquainted with him, paints him as a natural genius and an untiring worker, such as explore the seas and the land, and extend civilization and give the finish to a crude world; while another says of him, "He was a rough and restless character," and goes on further and depicts him as a sort of desperado. Reciting an episode where "Bennett having conceived a violent grudge against the adventurer Johnson (whose arrival will be recorded further on) formed a conspiracy with five or six companions to waylay and lynch him. They tried to carry out their plot and did to a certain extent, whipping the man in the most shameful manner, then fear of arrest compelled

them all to flee from the settlement on the very night after they had committed the outrage, which was in mid-winter and fearfully cold. They set out for Coffin's Grove, in Delaware County, and managed to reach it, but all of them, except Bennett, were in more or less frozen condition. Two of the company died from the effects of their exposure and what became of Bennett and his family was never known. They remained in this county only about a year. About the same time as Bennett, came S. G. and H. T. Sanford and they were soon followed by Ezra B. Allen. Early the same spring Dr. Edward Brewer, who resided many years and until his death in Independence, and Rufus B. Clark came with their families and settled about a mile and a half from Quasqueton. William W. Hadden and Frederick Kessler and family also came about that same time, then a man by the name of David Styles came with his family, during the summer of that same year, and for a while kept a hotel, the first one in the county.

Bennett was engaged in improving the water power and erecting a mill and had several young men employed who boarded with him. Their names were Jeffers, Warner, Day, Wall, and Evens and at least one of these was an accomplice of Bennett's in the assault on Johnson and had his feet badly frozen in the flight to Coffin's Grove. During the fall of that year, there came, among others, three young men—Henry B. Hatch, who made his home with Kessler, and Daggett and Simmons, who lived for awhile with Rufus Clark.

A few patches of land were broken and cultivated the first spring, potatoes and other garden vegetables and perhaps a little corn was planted but no wheat was raised until the next year.

Some time during the fall or early winter of 1842 there appeared on the scene a typical pioneer adventurer by the name of William Johnson, who claimed to be the famous Canadian patriot of that name, who had lived for years among the islands of the St. Lawrence River. He was accompanied by a young woman of very attractive appearance, whom he introduced as his daughter (Kate), the identical "Queen of the Thousand Isles" or the "Wild Girl of the Island." Subsequent events, however, proved that Johnson was an escaped criminal and an adventurer of the worst type.

But his stay was of short duration, the cause of which we have mentioned previously. The opening up of a new country always attracts adventurers and disreputable characters, the easy life, excitement, and lack of restraint appeals to such, but greatly to the credit of the early pioneers of this county was their attitude of intolerance of crooked proceedings and evil doers were made so uncomfortable that they soon left.

Another of the earliest frequenters was A. C. Fulton, who was a sailor of wide experience and travel and had come from the "hamlet" of Davenport into the frontier and located at Quasqueton and was engaged with Bennett and a man named Lambert in erecting the dam and mill at Quasqueton.

This is but a brief synopsis of the beginning of settlement in the county. A more complete review of this and sketches of the first settlers will be given further along in the history.

#### FIRST EVENTS

The first store in the county was opened during the year 1842 in Quasqueton by William Richards, familiarly called "Bill Dick." It is written in history

that his stock was a "general" one; the principal asset being the best brand of Old Bourbon whiskey obtainable.

The first sermon was preached in the Quasqueton settlement during its first summer, by a minister named Clark.

The first mill was one built on the Wapsie at Quasqueton, begun by Bennett in 1842 and finished by W. W. Hadden 1843.

The first hotel was operated by David Styles in 1842.

The first postoffice was established at Quasqueton in 1845, and William Richards was appointed the first postmaster.

The first school was taught by Dr. Edward Brewer in a small log house in Independence, in the winter of 1848. The building was afterwards used as a blacksmith shop.

The first law office opened in the county was that of James Jamison, of Independence, in 1847 or 1848. D. S. Lee commenced practicing law about the same time.

The first marriage was that of Dr. Edward Brewer and Miss Mary Ann Hathaway, which was celebrated in March, 1846. The ceremony was performed by Joseph A. Reynolds, then a justice of the peace for Delaware County.

The first white child born in the county was Charles B. Kessler, son of Frederick Kessler. He was born near Quasqueton, July 13, 1842. The oldest living person born in this county is Rufus Brewer, still a resident of the county. He was born April 27, 1847. He is a son of Dr. Edward and Mary A. Brewer.

The first death was that of a boy seven or eight years old, a son of John Cordell, who died in 1843 or 1844.

Some authorities claim that there were two deaths previous to this boy's, one, a man was shot to death near Quasqueton and another was frozen in December, 1842, also that one of Buchanan's citizens was shot to death but outside of the county.

The first Buchanan newspaper was the "Independence Civilian," a democratic organ, the first number of which was issued on May 17, 1855, B. F. Parker and James Hilleary being the proprietors.

The first bank (one not of issue but only for deposit and exchange) was established in the old Brewer Block on Main Street by Bemis, Brewer, and Roszell in 1865.



## CHAPTER V

### ORGANIZATION

#### LOCATION—COUNTY GOVERNMENT—ELECTIONS

The counties of Iowa lie in very regular tiers running east and west and in tiers, but less regular, from north to south. Buchanan is in the third tier south of the Minnesota line and sixth north of the Missouri line, third west of the Mississippi River, and tenth east of the Missouri. Its central point, which is a few miles east of Independence, its county seat, lies very nearly in latitude  $42\frac{1}{2}$  degrees north and longitude 14 degrees and 50 minutes, west from Washington.

It is sixty miles west of Dubuque and on an extension of the line which divides Illinois and Wisconsin.

Buchanan County is bounded on the north by Fayette, on the east by Delaware, on the south by Linn and Benton and on the west by Black Hawk County, is twenty-four miles square with a correction jog.

Independence, according to the census of 1910, embraces an area of 362,668 acres, of which 351,498 acres or 96.9 is in farm land and 303,593 acres, or 86.4 is improved farms, and this 351,498 acres is divided into 2,334 farms ranging in size from less than three to over one thousand acres, averaging 150.6 acres; 130.1 the average improved acreage. The woodland in farms is 19,698 acres and other unimproved land in farms is 28,207.

The value of all farm property is estimated at \$33,867,776, an increase of 75.7 per cent since the year 1900.

The value of the land is \$23,772,344, an increase of about 93 per cent in ten years and is 70.2 per cent of the value of all property. Buildings on farms are valued at \$5,045,854, which have almost doubled in value since the last census and is 14.9 per cent of all property values.

Implements and machinery, domestic animals, poultry, and bees have increased materially and together constitute 14.9 per cent of all property values. All property on farms averages \$14,511, land and buildings, \$12,347, and \$67.63 per acre, an average increase of about 86 per cent.

The number of farms operated by owners is 1,456, or 62.4 per cent, a decrease of 193, or 5 per cent. The number operated by tenants is 850, which is 36.4 per cent, or 67 more than in 1900—an increase of 4.4 per cent.

The number of all farms operated by owners free from mortgage is 734; 711 have mortgages and 11 have no mortgage report.

The amount of debt is \$2,049,129, or 29.8 per cent of the value of the land and buildings.

In ten years the value of Buchanan County's dairy products, excluding home use of milk and cream, was \$494,513. The receipts from sale of these products was \$472,524.

The value of the poultry and eggs produced was \$360,280. Receipts from the same were \$226,773.

Value of honey and wax produced was \$2,776.

Value of wool and mohair produced was \$8,075. Receipts from sale of domestic animals was \$2,209,460.

Value of animals slaughtered was \$79,811. Total value of domestic animals was \$3,898,457, includes all kinds, cattle, horses, swine, sheep and goats.

The value of all crops, including cereals, and other grains and seeds, hay and forage, vegetables, fruits and nuts was \$3,267,330.

#### ORGANIZATION OF BUCHANAN COUNTY

At its winter session of 1837-8, held at Burlington, the Legislature of Wisconsin Territory (which then embraced the territory now constituting the State of Iowa), passed "an act to establish the boundary lines of the counties of Dubuque, Clayton, Jackson, Benton, Linn, Jones, Clinton, Johnson, Scott, Delaware, Buchanan," etc. The boundaries of Dubuque and Delaware having been described in the first three or four sections of this act, it proceeds as follows:

Section 5. That all the country lying west of the County of Delaware and between the line dividing townships eighty-six and eighty-seven, and the line dividing townships ninety and ninety-one, north, extended to the western boundary of the territory, shall be, and the same is hereby constituted a separate county, to be called Buchanan.

Section 6. That the counties of Delaware and Buchanan shall, for temporary purposes, be considered in all respects a part of the County of Dubuque.

This act, which was approved December 21, 1837, merely planted the seed of the new county. It gave it "a local habitation and a name," but left its development into a living organization to the operation of time and its own internal, germinal forces. The subsequent development of the county may seem to have been slow to one who fails to realize the amount of embryotic growth which it had to make. If it takes sixteen months for an acorn to be developed from the blossom, and twice that number of years for a blossoming oak to be developed from the acorn, it ought not to be regarded as wonderful that it took Buchanan County ten years to emerge fully from its embryotic condition. Especially ought this fact excite no wonder, when it is remembered that all the early development of Buchanan County had to be made without any of that remarkable stimulus which railroads have since given to the growth of new counties.

The act above cited fixed the eastern boundary of the county as it now is, and designed the parallels along which the northern and the southern boundary lines still extend westward; but it extended those lines to the western limits of the territory. That is to say, it constituted as the western boundary of the county those portions of the Big Sioux and the Missouri rivers included within the two parallels mentioned. The county therefore embraced, theoretically, at that time, a strip of land about two hundred and forty miles long and twenty-four miles wide.



The act locating Blackhawk County, was passed by the Iowa Territory Legislature, about five years after this, viz.: on the 17th of February, 1843; the boundaries beginning at the northwest corner of Buchanan County. Between these two dates there must, of course, have been an act designating the present western limits of the last named county. When such an act was passed we have not been able to ascertain.

As to the origin of the county's name we have also made somewhat diligent inquiry, without being able to obtain any satisfactory information. The prevailing opinion is, however, that the name was given through the influence of an ardent admirer of the Pennsylvania statesman, James Buchanan, who afterwards became distinguished as president of the United States.

The act of December, 1837, attached Buchanan and Delaware to Dubuque, and that of February, 1843, attached Blackhawk and Buchanan to Delaware, for election, revenue and judicial purposes; and this latter arrangement continued till 1847, when this county elected its own officers, and assumed an independent jurisdiction.

The first election was held in August, 1847, when John Scott, Frederick Kessler, and B. D. Springer were elected county commissioners, and Dr. Edward Brewer, clerk, an office which the latter continued to hold for twenty-three years. We have been informed by Doctor Brewer (though we have found no record of the fact) that S. V. Thompson was appointed by state authority, as organizing sheriff, and that the election was called and managed by him. Doubtless some of the preliminaries were arranged by the authorities of Delaware County, under whose jurisdiction Buchanan was at the time, and by which the latter had been divided into two election precincts, one called Quasqueton and the other Centre precinct.

The earliest record of the proceedings of the commissioner's court of the county, shows that certain other officers, besides those above named, were elected, or appointed, at or about the time of the first county election. We transcribe the following entries:

September 4, 1847, John Scott (who was also one of the county commissioners), filed his bond and took oath of office as justice of the peace in and for the Centre precinct of the county.

September 8th, Thomas S. Hubbard filed his bond in this office as a justice of the peace in and for Quasqueton precinct, having taken the oath of office before Esquire Holmes of the same precinct.

September 23d, Henry H. Baker fully qualified as constable, and Thomas E. McKinney as a justice of the peace, in and for the Centre precinct of the county.

September 28th, A. B. Hathaway took the oath of office for coroner of the county.

On the 4th of October the commissioners held their first meeting, their official act being to divide the county into "three commission districts," that is (as we suppose), districts from each one of which a county commissioner was thereafter to be elected.

The first of these districts comprised the north half of the county; or the eight congressional townships lying north of the correction line. The second embraced the four southeastern townships, with the exception of the two tiers

of sections lying on the west side of townships 87 and 88 of range 8; and the third comprised the remaining portion of the county.

#### TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

January 3, 1848, the commissioners divided the county into three civil townships, whose boundaries were made identical with those of the three commissioner districts already established. These townships, like the districts, were first called simply from their numbers; and an election for township officers was ordered to take place in each of them, on the first Monday in the following April. In township No. 1 the election was to be held "at the store in Independence"; Isaac Hathaway, John Scott and John Obenchain to be judges of election. In township No. 2 the election was to be held "at the schoolhouse in Quasqueton"; Benjamin Congdon, Levi Billings and Malcom McBane to be judges. In township No. 3 the election was to be held "at the house of Barney D. Springer"; and J. Monroe Scott, Gamaliel Walker and B. D. Springer were named as judges of election.

In July, 1849, the boundaries of these townships were slightly changed, and number one was called Washington, number two Liberty, and number three Spring.

From this date until 1860 the erection of new townships and the frequent changes in their names and boundaries seem to have employed much of the valuable time of the county authorities. We can give only enough of these to trace the formation of the sixteen townships as they now exist.

The fourth township—Jefferson—was erected May 22, 1852; Buffalo (at first called Buffalo Grove), August 6, 1852; Perry was set off from Washington February 7, 1853; Superior (afterward called Hazleton), July 4, 1853; Newton, the first made conterminous with a congressional township (the same as township 87, range 7, which limits it still retains), was so erected May 1, 1854.

September 19, 1854, the eight townships then existing, viz.: Jefferson, Liberty, Newton, Buffalo, Spring, Washington, Superior, and Perry, were set forth anew, as to their boundaries; all of them being more or less changed, except Newton. At this time Spring Township was very irregular in its form, comprising the south half of the present territory of Fremont, sections 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, 36, and one-half sections 32 and 33 of the present territory of Byron, the west half of the present Township of Liberty, all of the present territory of Sumner, and about three sections of the southeast corner of Washington. At the same time Superior Township consisted of the west half of the present territory of Buffalo, and all of the present Hazleton except the western tier of sections.

Alton (the same as the present township of Fairbank) was erected March 5, 1855. Prairie (afterwards Fremont) was erected March 14, 1856; and Byron, March 20th, of the same year. The remaining townships were erected as follows. Sumner, March 7, 1857; Madison, March 11, 1857; Homer, July 29, 1858; Middlefield, September 21, 1858; Cono, same date; Westburg, August 6, 1860. The name of Prairie Township was changed to Fremont, September 5, 1859; that of Alton was changed to Fairbank June 2, 1862; and that of Superior to Hazleton, some time during the same year. The last two changes were made by the board of supervisors—all the rest by the County Court.

We will now give, for convenience of reference, the names of the existing townships, in the order of the dates at which they assumed their present form. Newton, May 1, 1854; Fairbank (Alton), March 5, 1855; Hazleton (Superior), same date; Madison, March 11, 1857; Buffalo, same date; Homer, June 29, 1858; Middlefield, September 21, 1858; Cono, same date; Liberty, September 5, 1859; Fremont, same date; Byron, same date; Westburg, August 6, 1860; Jefferson, same date; Perry, same date; Washington, September 13, 1860; Sumner, same date.

#### CHANGES IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The commissioners' court was abolished in 1860, and the board of supervisors was established in its place. About the same time the office of county judge was given up and that of county auditor was adopted. The duties heretofore performed by the county judge now fall in a great measure to the board of supervisors. This body consisted at first of sixteen members, one from each township. At present, however, the number is reduced to three, all being elected by a general vote of the county. The first supervisors were elected in the fall of 1860, and entered upon their duties January 7, 1861. Their names, with the township from which they were elected, are as follows: Elisha Sanborn, of Alton (Fairbank); E. P. Baker, of Byron; C. H. Jakway, of Buffalo; E. D. Hovey, of Cono; James Fleming, of Fremont; S. S. Allen, of Homer; John Johnson, of Jefferson; William Logan, of Liberty; J. B. Ward, of Madison; James M. Kerr, of Middlefield; N. W. Richardson, of Newton; D. B. Sanford, of Perry; V. R. Beach, of Sumner; William C. Nelson, of Superior (Hazleton); George W. Bemis, of Washington; William B. Wilkinson, of Westburg.

#### TOWNSHIPS

All of the townships in this county coincide with the national survey, except that the north part of Sumner, consisting of the upper tier of sections, together with a part of sections 12 and 13, is added to Washington partly to accommodate the City of Independence, which was first laid out in Washington, soon extended itself across the line into Sumner and partly to accommodate the people living near the county seat for schooling and other benefits. The names of the townships, in the order in which they are given on the map, presents a singular poetical euphony, which is said to have no parallel in the state and probably none in the entire country. The county is twenty-four miles square, and divided into sixteen townships, each six miles square, making four tiers each, containing four townships. Every township name consists of either two or three syllables with but one accent, so when arranged as they are on the maps they form a regular poetic stanza—which technically is called a dimeter quatrainthus; and all the school children learn these names quite as easily as the words of a song. Beginning each time with the west township:

Fairbank, Washington, Buffalo, Madison,  
 Perry, Washington, Byron, Fremont,  
 Westburg, Sumner, Liberty, Middlefield,  
 Jefferson, Homer, Cono, Newton.

But any other arrangement forms a similar poetic stanza but not quite so euphonious.

There are fifteen towns and villages in this county, ten of which are railroad stations; viz., Independence, the county seat, in Washington Township, a town of 3,517 inhabitants, situated on the banks of the Wapsie and where the two railroads, the Rock Island and the Illinois Central, cross.

Jesup, a town of 697 inhabitants, about eight miles west of Independence, in Perry Township, and on the Illinois Central.

Winthrop, a town of 529 inhabitants, situated about seven miles east of Independence, in Byron Township, on the Illinois Central.

Hazleton, a town of 444 inhabitants, about nine miles north of Independence, in the township of the same name, and on the Rock Island Railroad.

Rowley, a town of 200 inhabitants, about nine miles south of Independence, in Homer Township, and on the Rock Island Railroad.

Fairbank, whose population is 618, situated on the Little Wapsie, close to the Fayette line, eighteen miles northwest of Independence, in Fairbank Township, and on the Chicago Great Western Railroad.

Stanley, with a population of 200, situated right next to the Fayette line, in Buffalo Township, and about fourteen or fifteen miles north and east of Independence, and on the Chicago Great Western.

Aurora, a town of 287 population, is situated on the line between Buffalo and Madison townships, on the Chicago Great Western road and about sixteen or seventeen miles northeast of Independence.

Lamont, a town of 571 inhabitants, is in the northeastern part of the county, in Madison Township, about twenty miles from Independence, and on the Chicago Great Western Railroad.

Quasqueton, a town of 394 population, in the southern part of Liberty Township, on the Wapsie River, about ten miles southeast of Independence, and on the terminus of the Chicago, Anamosa & Northern Railroad.

Brandon, whose population is 400, is in the southwestern part of the county, in Jefferson Township, on Lime Creek, about fifteen or sixteen miles southwest of Independence, and on the Waterloo, Cedar Falls & Northern Railroad and Interurban Electric Line.

Kiene, a small village of twenty-five inhabitants, is in the north part of Newton Township, seventeen or eighteen miles southeast of Independence, and on the Chicago, Anamosa & Northern Railroad.

Doris is a small station in the southern part of Byron Township, about three miles east of Independence, on the Illinois Central.

Bryantburg, a station on the Rock Island, is in the southern part of Hazleton Township, about six miles north of Independence.

The other villages in the county are: Littleton, a place of 100 inhabitants, about ten miles northwest of Independence, just at the juncture of the Little Wapsie with the main river.

Otterville, a small village on Otter Creek, in Washington Township, about four miles northwest of Independence.

Newtonville in Newton, Hammerville in Homer, Shady Grove in Jefferson, Vista in Westburg and Middlefield in Middlefield Township.

With the increasing railroad facilities, these small hamlets may in time become towns and possibly cities.

THE FIRST ELECTION—PUBLIC SERVANTS

The first election held in the county was on August 2, 1847, under the direction of S. V. Thompson, the organizing sheriff, and the following is a copy of his return :

Quasqueton, August 10, 1847.

Mr. Elisha Cutler, Iowa Secretary of State.

Dear Sir: Below is a copy of the abstract of votes given in this county, at the general and special election held on the first Monday, 2d day of August, A. D. 1847.

STATE OFFICERS

FOR MEMBER OF CONGRESS—HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SECOND DISTRICT

Shepherd Leffler—Received forty (40) votes.  
Thos. McNight—Received fifteen (15) votes.

BOARD PUBLIC WORKS

H. W. Sample—Received thirty-eight (38) votes.  
Geo. Wilson—Received sixteen (16) votes.

SECRETARY

Chas. Corkery—Received thirty-eight (38) votes.  
Madison Dagger—Received sixteen (16) votes.

TREASURER

Paul Brittain—Received thirty-eight (38) votes.  
Pinco B. Fagin—Received sixteen (16) votes.

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FOR COUNTY OFFICES

FOR JUDGE OF PROBATE COURT

Saul Sufficool .....32  
David S. Davis .....23

FOR CORONER

A. B. Hathaway .....48  
Levi Billings ..... 6

## HISTORY OF BUCHANAN COUNTY

## FOR COMMISSIONERS

Malcolm McBain .....	27
Isaac Hathaway .....	24
Frederick Keslar .....	43
Barney T. Springer .....	32
John Scott .....	33

## CLERK DISTRICT COURT

Edward Brewer .....	53
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## PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Frederick Kesler .....	41
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## FOR SHERIFF

I. F. Hathaway .....	24
Rufus B. Clark .....	35
Daniel Grady .....	1

## RECORDER

Edward Brewer .....	43
S. P. Stoughton .....	3
Samuel Hammond .....	1

## COUNTY SURVEYOR

S. S. Mullican .....	49
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## FUND COMMISSIONERS

Thos. S. Hubbard .....	15
Levi Billings .....	30

## INSPECTOR OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

D. S. McGonigal .....	33
Thos. Burr .....	4

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of the abstract of votes given in Buchanan County at the election on the second day of August, 1847.

S. V. Thompson,  
Organizing Sheriff, Buchanan County.

In April, following the first election, another was held, at which time Liberty Township cast thirty-three votes, Spring, 11 and Washington, 18. Thomas H. Benton was elected superintendent of public instruction, Elijah Beardsley, judge of probate, D. C. Greeley, county surveyor, D. S. McGonigal, coroner, and S. P. Stoughton, school fund trustee.

In August of that year, at a general election, Rufus Clark, John Scott and Malcom McBain were elected commissioners, and Shepherd Leffler carried the county for Congress by two votes. Leffler was a democrat.

In August, 1849, W. H. Hatch was elected sheriff; E. Brewer, recorder; D. C. Greeley, surveyor; T. Kesler, district clerk; G. I. Cummins, probate judge; Carmi Hicks and Malcom McBain, county commissioners, and E. Brewer, commissioner's clerk.

In April, 1850, William Logan was elected school fund commissioner and Daniel Greeley, surveyor, both of whom were whigs.

In August of the same year, the county was carried by James Thompson, whig candidate for governor.

In 1851, O. H. P. Roszell, democrat, was elected county judge as well as county surveyor.

In August, 1852, Jefferson Township cast its first vote, nineteen persons voting, and in November of that year, eighty-two votes were cast in the county.

In April, 1853, Perry Township cast twenty votes, and in November of that year, Buffalo cast eleven votes and Superior (now Hazleton), cast fifteen.

In 1854, J. W. Grimes, whig candidate for governor, carried the county, and at the same time a proposition to build a jail lost 170 to 106. In April of the next year, Alton (now Fairbank) and Newton townships voted. At that time a proposition to prohibit the sale of liquor in Iowa was carried in this county, 304 to 178.

In April, 1856, the only office voted for was commissioner of school fund, but this was the first election in which Byron Township and Prairie (now Fremont) Township took part. The county went republican in August, 1856, and a proposition for a constitutional convention carried 104 to 13. The next November, J. C. Traer was chosen delegate to the convention. In April, 1857, Madison and Sumner townships voted, at which time H. B. Hatch was chosen the first county assessor. In May of the next year, 432 votes were cast for liquor and 295 against.

In June of the same year, a special election was held, when 794 votes were cast for banking laws and 289 against; 1,128 for state banking laws and 53 against; 357 for railroad laws and 884 against.

In October, 1858, Middlefield, Homer, and Cono townships voted, and on a proposition to build bridges, 63 votes were cast for and 1,069 against; 70 for repair of bridges and 1,067 against. In October, 1859, the county went for Samuel J. Kirkwood for governor and the entire republican ticket. Westburg and Fremont townships voted, these being the new names for Spring and Prairie townships.

In October, 1861, Samuel J. Kirkwood again carried the county, and the republican ticket was successful. In 1862, William B. Allison carried the county for Congress.

In 1863 the republicans again carried the county, and a proposition for bridges carried, 504 to 469 against.

The republican election for President was successful in Buchanan in 1864.

In October, 1865, another proposition for bridges carried—and in October, 1866, it was voted to buy a county farm—996 for, 308 against.

In November, 1868, the voters had changed their minds concerning the necessity of a jail and carried the proposition 1,405 for and 264 against.

Until 1869 each township elected a supervisor, but the Legislature that year reduced the number to three.

In 1870, the Prohibition question was again voted upon and carried, 1,454 for, to 737 against. A proposition to increase the number of supervisors was lost, 1,149 to 641, and a proposition to restrain stock from running at large was lost, 1,221 to 722.

In November, 1872, a proposition to increase the number of supervisors from three to seven was carried, 738 for, 579 against and in October, 1873, a proposition to build a County High School lost, 256 for, to 1,954 against.

In October, 1874, J. M. Weart, an attorney of Independence, was a candidate on the democratic ticket for Supreme Court Reporter and carried the county by 103 votes.

In October, 1877, a proposition to bond the county for \$7,500 to build a fire-proof building lost, 296 for, to 1,895 against.

In November, 1880, a proposition to amend Article 3 of the Constitution of Iowa, by striking out "Free White" carried, 1,625 for, to 672 against and a proposition to appropriate \$7,500 of the swamp land fund to build a fire-proof office building carried, 2,155 for, to 615 against and then a crime was committed by building the monstrous affair which we are still using.

In June, 1882, a special election was held for a constitutional amendment prohibiting the sale of liquor. It carried in Buchanan, 1,862 for, to 1,201 against.

In 1889, Joseph G. Hutchinson carried the county over Horace Boies, 2,070 to 1,964. In November, 1891, Horace Boies carried the county over Horace C. Wheeler, 2,292 to 2,271.

In November, 1893, Frank D. Jackson carried the county over Horace Boies, 2,392 to 2,133.

In November, 1895, a proposition to levy a tax to buy the grounds of the Buchanan County Agricultural Association at a cost not to exceed \$4,700 was lost, 381 for, 2,494 against.

In 1899 a proposition to reduce the number of supervisors from seven to three carried.

In 1900 the constitutional amendment providing for biennial elections carried the second time, Buchanan voting in favor of the amendment.

In 1902 three propositions for tax levies failed of passage. One to issue bonds to build a county home, another to levy a tax for that purpose and another to increase the levy for the county fund.

In 1903 the election was so close on county superintendents that Anna Barrett, the democratic candidate, who received 2,118 votes, contested the election of M. J. Goodrich, the republican candidate, who received 2,140.

The contest resulted in sustaining the return of the original canvass.

In 1904 the proposition for biennial election carried in the county as well as in the state. This was the second time it had been submitted and carried and therefore became the law, since which time elections occur every other year. However, the primary which went into effect in 1908 fully satisfies the desires of the most ardent voter to exercise his right of suffrage.

#### CIVIL LIST OF BUCHANAN COUNTY

Buchanan County forms part of the Third Congressional District and the only representative to Congress elected from the county is Hon. W. G. Donnan, elected October 11, 1870, serving two terms.



A hard won battle was waged at this election. When Mr. Donnan was nominated at the Congressional Convention at Charles City, there were eight candidates in the field, all worthy opponents; distinguished and widely known men, and after balloting all morning, afternoon and way into the night, on the 107th ballot there were still eight candidates in the field and on that ballot Dubuque, which had heretofore been divided equally among the eight candidates, was cast solid for Donnan. This created a sensation and several counties asked time for consultation and on the 108th ballot, Donnan won; the final vote stood, Donnan, 97 7-12; Updegraff, 62 5-12; Larrabee, 4.

At the crossing of the Davenport & St. Paul and the B. C. R. & M. R. R., in Fayette County, a postoffice was established in 1874, and named Donnan in honor of Mr. W. G. Donnan. Later a little town sprang up.

## STATE SENATORS

D. C. Hastings, October, 1859; L. W. Hart, November, 1863; W. G. Donnan, October, 1867; George W. Bemis, 1871; M. W. Harmon, 1875; C. R. Millington, 1883; Ed P. Seeds, 1887; D. W. Jones, 1890; M. W. Harmon, 1891; Dan H. Young, 1895; H. J. Griswold, 1899; G. W. Dunham, 1903; E. H. Hoyt, 1908; Eli Perkins, 1912.

## REPRESENTATIVES

D. S. Davis, Quasqueton, 1852; F. E. Turner, Quasqueton, 1854; George W. Bemis, 1859; Jed Lake, 1861; D. D. Holdridge, 1863; P. C. Wilcox, 1865-1867; D. S. Lee, 1869; J. M. Hovey, Jesup, 1871; S. T. Spangler, Buffalo, 1873; John Calvin, 1875-77-87; Isaac Muncey, 1879-81; W. H. Chamberlain, 1883-85-89-91; H. J. Griswold, 1893-95; T. E. McCurdy, 1897-99; L. F. Springer, 1901-03-06; B. F. Stoddard, 1908-10; T. F. Halstead, 1912; T. E. Taylor, 1914.

## COUNTY JUDGES

O. H. P. Roszell, August, 1851; O. H. P. Roszell, 1855; S. J. W. Tabor, October, 1859 (resigned); W. H. Burton (to fill vacancy), 1861; W. H. Burton, 1863-67.

During the latter part of Judge Burton's term, and since, the office of auditor has taken the place of that of county judge.

## COUNTY AUDITORS

J. L. Loomis, October, 1869-71; D. A. McLiesh, 1873-75; George B. Warren, 1877-79-81; Clarke L. Cole, 1882-83-85; H. F. Sill, 1887-89-92-94; V. W. Davis, 1896-98-1900; C. E. Hayes, 1902-04-06; E. E. Everett, 1908-10-12; E. A. Bordner, 1914.

## JUDGE OF PROBATE

Elijah Beardsley, August, 1848; G. I. Cummins, 1849.

## CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

S. P. Stoughton, 1848; Edward Brewer (elected biennially from 1852 to 1866, inclusive); D. L. Smith, November, 1868-70-72-74-76; Robert J. Williamson, 1878; O. M. Gillette, 1880-82-84-86-88; W. E. Bain to fill vacancy in 1890; L. F. Springer, 1890-92; A. M. Shellito, 1894; H. C. Chappell, 1896-98; M. O. Fouts, 1900-02-04; J. F. Stevenson, 1906-08-10; J. N. Smith, 1912; D. C. Hood, 1914.

## RECORDER AND TREASURER

Edward Brewer, August, 1848; Edward Brewer, 1859; G. I. Cummins, 1851; John Leslie, 1853; H. G. Hastings, 1855; William G. Donnan, 1859; S. J. W. Tabor, 1861; E. B. Older, 1863.

The offices of treasurer and recorder were then separated and the recorders were as follows: T. J. Marinus, 1864-66; John Hollett, 1868-70-72-74-76; William J. Miller, 1878; J. W. Foreman, 1880-82-84-86-88-90; J. B. Truax, 1892-94-96-98-1900-02-04-06-08-10; A. L. McClernon, 1912; C. A. Kenyon, 1914.

## TREASURERS

E. B. Older, 1865; L. A. Main, 1867-69-71; James A. Poor, 1873-75-77-79-81-83-85-87-89-91-93-95-97-99; D. W. Poor (to fill vacancy), 1901; C. M. Roberts, 1901-03; A. M. Donnan, 1906-08-10-12-14.

## PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Elijah Beardsley, 1848- (record defective) 1850; D. S. Lee, 1852; J. S. Woodward, April, 1854; James Jamison, August, 1854; J. C. Head, Quasqueton, 1856.

## COUNTY ATTORNEY

(The office of county attorney was established in 1886)

H. W. Holman, 1886-88-90-98-1900; C. E. Ransier, 1892-94-96; M. A. Smith, 1902-04; R. J. O'Brien, 1906-08-10-12; R. W. Hasner, 1914.

## SHERIFF

E. D. Phelps, August, 1848; N. W. Hatch, August, 1849-51; J. A. Guthrie, 1852; Eli D. Phelps, August, 1853; Leander Keys, 1855; Byron C. Hale, October, 1859; M. Gillette (died during term), 1861; John M. Westfall, 1862-63; A. Crooks, 1865; John A. Davis, 1867-69; George O. Farr, 1871-73; W. S. Van Orsdol, 1875-77; E. L. Currier, 1879-81-83; W. S. Mitchell, 1885; I. N. Hiff, 1887-89; W. M. Higbee, 1891; E. O. Craig, 1893-95; C. E. Hiff, 1897-99-1901; George O. Corbis, 1903-06; O. E. Finuf, 1908-10-12; F. H. Lehmkuhl, 1914.

## COUNTY SURVEYOR

D. C. Greeley, April and August, 1848; O. H. P. Roszell, August, 1850; O. H. P. Roszell, August, 1851-53; George W. Bemis, 1855; David Merrill, 1859; I. P. Warren, 1861; J. W. Myers, 1865-67; J. L. Seely, 1868-69-71; D. S. Deering, 1873-87-89-91; J. L. Seely, 1874-75-77; Jasper N. Hiff, 1879-81; D. S. Fay, 1882-83; J. N. Hiff, 1893; I. B. Ellis, 1899-1901; A. D. Guernsey, 1902-03; A. M. Donnan, 1904; C. E. Boyack, 1906-08-10. The office then became appointive and C. E. Boyack secured the first appointment and was succeeded by R. W. Gearhart.

## CORONER

D. S. McGonigal, 1848; T. Merritt, 1849; Thomas Morgan, 1851; Thomas J. Marinus, 1852; E. W. Wright, 1853; T. J. Marinus, 1854; J. L. McGee, 1855; R. W. Wright, 1859; H. H. Hunt, 1861; L. S. Brooks, 1863; H. H. Hunt, 1865-67-69-71-75-77-79-81-83-85-87-89-93-95; M. A. Chamberlain, 1873; M. L. Shine, 1891; F. R. Bain, 1896-97; P. E. Gardner, 1899; R. G. Swan, 1901-03-06-08-10-12-14.

## SCHOOL FUND COMMISSIONER

S. P. Stoughton, April, 1848; William Logan, 1850-52-54-56.

## MEMBER OF BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

H. N. Gates, 1858; S. J. W. Tabor, 1860.

## COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

O. H. P. Roszell, 1858; Bennett Roberts, October, 1859; S. G. Pierce, November, 1860-61; George Gemmell, 1863; S. G. Pierce, 1865-67-69; E. H. Ely, 1871; Amos Rowe, 1873; W. E. Parker, 1875-77-79-81-83-85-87-89-91-93-95; E. C. Lillie, 1897-99; M. J. Goodrich, 1901-03; P. C. Arildson, 1906; G. R. Lockwood, 1908-10-12.

## COUNTY ASSESSOR

H. B. Hatch, 1857, appears to have been the only one.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Rufus B. Clark, 1848; James Collier, Malcolm McBain, 1848; Carmi Hickox, M. McBain, 1849; Nathan Trogdon, 1850.

## COUNTY SUPERVISORS

The first board met January 7, 1861, consisting of one member elect from each township, viz.: Elisha Sanborn, Alton Township; E. B. Baker, Byron;

C. H. Jakway, Buffalo; E. D. Hovey, Cono; James Fleming, Fremont; L. S. Allen, Homer; John Johnson, Jefferson; William Logan, Liberty; J. B. Ward, Madison; James M. Kerr, Middlefield; N. W. Richardson, Newton; D. B. Sanford, Perry; V. R. Beach, Sumner; William C. Nelson, Superior; George W. Bemis, Washington; William B. Wilkinson, Westburg.

The chairmen of the board were: George M. Bemis, January, 1861-62; John Johnson, January, 1863; Isaac G. Freeman, January, 1864-65; N. Dickey, 1866; J. H. Campbell, January, 1867; John Johnson, January, 1868; E. P. Brintnall, January, 1869; S. W. Rich, January, 1870; E. P. Brintnall, January, 1871.

In 1871 the board was reduced to three members, chosen by the county at large. This continued for three terms, and the members were: E. P. Brintnall, Jed Lake, J. A. Stoddard, 1871; Jed Lake, J. A. Stoddard, Morris Todd, 1872; J. A. Stoddard, Morris Todd, John D. Russell, 1873.

In 1874 the board was increased to seven members, of whom the following have been chairmen: Horatio Bryant, M. D., 1874-75-76; J. G. House, M. D., 1877-78-79; H. Bryant, 1880; C. R. Millington, 1881-82; J. B. Potter, 1881; H. M. Coughtry, 1881; L. B. Haskin, 1881; T. E. McCurdy, 1882; W. H. H. Eddy, 1882; O. S. Payne, 1883-86-89; Walter Jamieson, 1884-87; E. O. Craig, 1884-87-90; Charles Tullock, 1884-87; W. E. Rosemond, 1885; W. B. Russell, 1885-88; N. M. Mignet, 1885-1902-06; Randall Jacobs, 1888-91-97; Jacob Kiefer, 1888-91-94; James Van Orsdol, 1890; A. T. Cooper, 1890; Walter Thompson, 1891-94-97-1914; Mathew Stewart, 1892; H. F. Miller, 1893; Isaac Holman, 1893; C. H. Jakway, 1893; J. W. Foreman, 1894; J. D. Laird, 1895-98; E. F. Irwin, 1896-98; C. E. Boyack, 1896; Fred Eversole, 1896-98; John Elliott, 1897; John Leehy, 1899; Elzy Wilson, 1900; W. H. Cooke, 1901; A. H. Farwell, to fill vacancy, 1903; J. H. Riseley, 1903; C. E. Boies, 1904; L. P. Timson, 1906-08; A. P. Miller, 1906-10; Jesse Lyon, 1908-14; Fred Finch, 1912.

## CHAPTER VI

### EARLY COMMERCE

#### PIONEER MERCHANTS AND MANUFACTURES—THE PROFESSIONS

The beginnings of commercial enterprises in a rural district are always exceedingly crude and simple, and Buchanan was no exception to the rule.

The pioneer merchant usually has not the capital to invest in a large, fine and diversified stock of goods and, even though he had the means, he would have no demand for the luxuries. His customers are too poor to indulge in any of the fineries. Their desires are simple and their wants are few. Groceries, embracing only the commonest necessities of life, are the first imports into a new country, while drugs, hardware, and dry goods of a very common and cheap variety and of a universal pattern and style follow. No merchant could afford to cater to the tastes of the exclusive few, but must satisfy the simple wants of the many. There cannot be extensive imports into any country, for any length of time, without a counter balancing amount of exports, and, of course, in a wild and uncultivated country there are no exports, for several years at least. In those days there was no such thing as a regular department store, even in the larger cities, and in the country villages the general store answered for all purposes, often hardware and drugs being combined with the inseparable "dry goods and groceries." An exclusive stock was never thought of in those days.

The earliest merchants purchased their supplies in Dubuque and brought them through on wagons. Later trips were made into Chicago and New York to make purchases, and some bought their goods in St. Louis, and brought them up to Dubuque on the river and thence overland on wagons. Most of the merchants kept one or more teams for this purpose and there were many independent teamsters who made their living that way. The round trip from Quasqueton or Independence to Dubuque and back consumed an entire week. Most of the vehicles used then were covered, two-horse wagons, but when the roads were particularly bad, four horses often had to be used. The teamsters always went in companies, not only for the sake of mutual assistance in case of trouble, but because there were so many going and coming on the road continually that they were assured of company. This fact seems incredible, until one considers the immense amount of supplies; lumber for dwellings, household goods and furniture, as well as all the groceries and dry goods that just the population of this county, which had reached seven or eight thousand people, would consume, and that several other counties west of here were rapidly being settled, and that all the supplies for all these people must be hauled over the same wagon route, it is not surprising that these wagon teamsters formed rather a continuous procession between this

new West and their source of provision (their commissary department) at Dubuque. It was a common statement that the lines of canvas-covered vehicles often looked like the supply trains of an army. Both of the counties east were far more populous than Buchanan, but at that time the railroad was an embryo project. For a long time most of the wagons went to Dubuque empty, since there was no produce to ship east, and the surplus was shipped to the settlers further west, but for a few years before the railroad was built, flour from the Independence mill, and perhaps also from the mill at Quasqueton, and corn, wheat and pork began to be sent to Dubuque in the wagons, but never in large quantities. The usual price for freight was \$1.00 per hundredweight, and this alone made the cost of freighting, especially on heavy articles like salt, extravagantly high. The freight on a barrel of salt was \$3.00, and the price of the salt itself three or four dollars a barrel, making even salt a luxury. The best salt and almost the entire supply came from Syracuse, New York.

Financial matters were managed very differently in the early days than now, there being no banks to furnish exchange, the merchants when buying goods in the East, would carry their money with them generally to settle former accounts, for goods were bought on four to six months' credit then, money being very scarce. Those who bought their supplies in Dubuque, often sent the money by the teamsters.

A noticeable thing about the early business firms was their frequent dissolution of partnership, also their frequent movings. Every issue of the papers chronicled several business changes and removals. The population fluctuated greatly in those days.

The first bank established in Independence was located in the old Brewer Block, on the south side of Main Street, just east of Third Avenue, Southeast, by Bemis, Brewer and Roszell about 1865. This bank was not for issue but only for deposit and exchange. From that time, remittances began to be made by mail, and merchants going East began to take draft instead of cash with them, or else leave their money on deposit, subject to check, just as at present.

The first Buchanan County merchant, as has been mentioned before, was a man familiarly called "Bill Dick," sometimes dignified with the name, William Richards, for style. He opened up a store in Quasqueton in 1843, and although his stock was not an extensive one, nor was his supply of the necessities of life always abundant, yet his barrel of whiskey, like the widow of Zarephthah's cruse of oil, never failed. In former days this article was generally considered one of the staples and no stock was complete without it, even a dry goods, hardware and grocery stock, but later it was cast out as an unfit associate for more respectable merchandise, and took up an allegiance with drugs, which it has maintained more or less until this day. Bill Dick's only distinction rests in the fact that he was the pioneer in his particular line, but he has had a multitudinous following which steadily increased until education and economical conditions demanded reform, then the good citizens of Buchanan County rose in rebellion and ousted the offensive traffic. But in the early days, the saloon ads occupied a conspicuous place in the papers, like this, in the *Civilian* of October 14, 18—, Mike's card: In our columns will be found the card of Mike, who is prepared to do all kinds of work in his line, on short notice.

D. S. Davis and S. V. Thompson were the first regular merchants in the county, starting their successful business in Quasqueton in 1845, and a couple of years before the beginning of Independence.

The first merchant in Independence was Charles Cummings, who had his store in a log building near the lower end of Main and just east of Chatham Street (just about where Sheehan Brothers Clothing Store is).

William Brazleton came next, his store was on the corner where the First National Bank is now located. He put up the first building on the south corner of Main and Walnut streets, where the Commercial Bank is, and there kept the first hotel of Independence, which was afterward changed to the Montour House. Mr. E. Purdy was the proprietor for several years. A. H. and Orville Fonda and R. R. Plane were among the pioneer merchants of Independence and were engaged in the mercantile business here for many years, in fact, the longest of any of the early ones. A. H. Fonda, the elder of the brothers, came from New York State in 1854 and opened a store in a frame building on the same corner where, in 1861, they erected a stone store, which was occupied by Orville for many years as a general merchandise store. In 1860, the old wooden structure which they first occupied was moved east to the river bank, and was used by Mr. Clark for a drug store. Afterwards he erected the stone building and occupied it until he sold out to H. W. Hovey who was in the drug business.

Orville Fonda came from Janesville, Wisconsin, in 1853, the year previous to his brother, and for some time was engaged in the preparation of the buhr stones for the flouring mill, which was in the process of erection. He then became a partner with his brother in the general merchandise business. They were partners for six years, then dissolved partnership and A. H. kept a news stand and variety store in the Hageman Building, now occupied by A. S. Cobb. Orville bought out his brother and continued in the dry goods and grocery business until his death, when the building was sold to W. M. Woodward who remodeled it and built on an addition, and still occupies it with a hardware stock, and that, combined with the store building next to him on the east, which he bought later, forms his fine, modern department store.

Among the merchants who were in business in Independence when the Fonda brothers commenced, was James Forrester, who in the spring of 1852 opened a general store, groceries, dry goods, hardware and drugs, in the place afterwards occupied by the "Wigwam," on East Main Street, about where the implement stores now are. After retiring from business, he devoted himself to farming on East Main Street, adjoining the city, where he owned a fine farm and what was then considered a fine, attractive residence. E. B. and P. A. Older also had a store at this time, on Main between Chatham and Walnut streets.

R. R. Plane was the pioneer hardware merchant, coming to Independence from Belvidere, Illinois, in 1854. He began business in a small way on the north side of Main Street. He continued for twelve years and then purchased a lot in front of Chatham Street and erected a fine store, which he occupied until it was burned down, in 1874, which he rebuilt in the same place, where the Plane Hardware Store is now located. He conducted the store until his death and now his son, Irving, is proprietor. An old history tells that his first year's business amounted to about eight thousand dollars, and in 1880, to about forty thousand and had reached as high as seventy-five thousand dollars in a

year. An immense business, and a most profitable one, as any merchant of today would agree. Competition certainly was not so great then as now.

M. D. Smith commenced a "Foreign and Domestic Hardware" business the year after Mr. Plane, but did not continue it long.

S. S. Allen, as proprietor of the "Agricultural Store," advertised all kinds of farm implements, among which we noticed cradles, corn and coffee mills, corn crackers, sausage cutters, and stuffers, fanning mills, log chains, butter tubs and ladles, hutchetts, sneath's lanthorns, lard lamps, iron boot jacks, well wheels, rope bed cords, brush hooks, candle molds, and many other things which are obsolete now. He also advertised all kinds of stoves, ranging from five dollars to twenty-five dollars or cheaper, and churns, glass and putty, and garden and flower seeds, also clover, osage orange and yellow locust.

This store was located on South Main Street, near the bridge. Many years afterwards his son, Andrew, also operated a fine general hardware store a few doors east of where his father had been in business in the early days. Previous to this S. S. Allen was one of a company of "Land and Exchange Brokers, Attorney-at-Law, and Real Estate Agents," and also one of the editors of the *Civilian*, the first county newspaper, he and Stephen J. W. Tabor, in February, 1855, having bought out B. F. Parker and James Hilleary. He was also proprietor of the first book store in the county. His line included all kinds of books, wall and curtain paper, church music, sheet music, musical instruments, and all kinds of stationery.

J. B. Thomas, another merchant of early times, owned a store building at the corner of Main and North streets, where he kept a large and general assortment of latest style goods. In his advertisements of 1857 he pledges himself not to be undersold by any house west of Dubuque. He also demanded settlement from his debtors, some of whom had been owing him since 1853 and further threatened them with the law. Same afflictions which befall merchants of today, but with the excuse that money was much more scarce then than now, and morals were then and always will be the same, and honesty does not entirely depend on financial standing. Mr. Thomas sold out that year to D. T. Randall.

Another of the early places of business was the "Saving Store," Clarke, Sullivan and Company were the proprietors. This store was opposite White's Hotel, on the corner of Main and Court streets, where the Ransier flats are now located. Their advertisements are interesting to read, and note the great changes in dress materials and styles. We further notice that our mothers and grandmothers were quite as subservient to fashion as the women of today. This firm advertises: "The largest and richest stock of fancy and staple dry goods, ladies' and children's shoes and perfumery ever brought into Independence, among which may be found, rich silks, French merinos, wool and muslin delaines, cashmeres, lustras, Parisian twills, white goods, embroideries, dress trimmings, sheetings, shirtings, denims, flannels, alpacas, Ansey's prints, tickings, hosiery, bonnets, ribbons, flowers, and a fine line of all kinds of shawls, including Brocha, Stella, Bay State, Waterloo, and other favorite styles, etc. We will give you more goods for a dollar than any other establishment west of the Mississippi."

In this same *Civilian* of this early date, is an advertisement of a general store in Quasqueton, which reads, "The Quasqueton Railroad is not located yet, but D. S. Davis has just received the largest and best stock of dry goods



and groceries, etc. I have selected my goods in New York and Boston," and so on.

Benthall and Jennegan also had a general store at Quasqueton.

Another, of the firm, Marshall & Sufficool (afterwards Sufficool sold his interest to John Cameron), located at Littleton, advertising a general line, including everything in dry goods and boots and shoes, hardware, groceries and drugs, paints, oils, glass and sash.

Parsons and Mellish were proprietors of a "Drug and Medicine" store at Independence, and advertised everything in that line, and some things besides. "Camphene, alcohol, turpentine, burning fluid (used for lighting purposes), wines and liquors, stationery, confectionery, etc., all of which we offer for sale, from motives, neither of enlarged benevolence nor imminent necessity, but on the principle that the interests of the buyer and seller in all legitimate trade are identical. We solicit patronage on no other terms." Special notice was also given to all "good livers" and "appreciating stomachs," that they had just received a large assortment of both "fresh and preserved fruits, raisins, strawberries, currants, blackberries, cherries, whortle berries, plums, peaches, etc., beans, and asparagus, all neatly put up in hermetically sealed cans." This firm certainly catered to the pioneer aristocracy. Evidently there were epicurean tastes, even in those early days. This advertisement was a revelation to the authors, for we had always supposed that the early settlers were denied all but the coarser and necessary things of life.

John Bogert was one of the pioneer merchants and kept drugs, boots and shoes, hats, caps, and groceries, and occupied a store in the "New Jones Block" near the foot of Main Street.

Sanders & Burns were the proprietors of the "People's Headquarters' Store," with a stock of gentlemen's furnishings, boots, shoes, rubber goods, dry goods, millinery, and groceries, cash system. Lindley Able, J. Whit, Marsh, D. T. Randall, Eli D. Phelps, J. W. Melone, J. Hirsch, T. B. Bullen, Rowse & Clarke, Ephraim Leach, S. Hellman, Lorenzo Moore and G. W. Counts, J. E. and J. B. Voak, Ransom Bartle, R. W. Wright, H. S. Chase, J. D. Meyers, S. S. McClure, and T. B. Bullen, and many other names, appear as proprietors of stores in the early '50s.

C. V. C. Post had the first furniture store. It was situated on the west side of the river.

Independence could also boast three boot and shoe manufactories in those early days, one conducted by W. Chandler, one by J. Wiley, and one run by J. C. Loomis in connection with his boot and shoe store (the first exclusive shoe store in the county). These boot and shoe manufacturers promised, as they do today, "to satisfy and please the public, and fit the feet." They claimed to be prepared to manufacture to order, every article in the line of boots and shoes in a neat and most substantial manner. "Buffalo overshoes" were much advertised in those days. J. C. Loomis also sold lumber wagons, buggies, and "democrat wagons."

William Scott manufactured saddles and harnesses and also sold and bought all kinds of hides and kept all kinds of saddles and harnesses, hardware and shoe findings, while S. J. Hicks, E. H. Gaylord, and L. S. Hicks were manufacturers of several different kinds of plows and also kept all kinds of farm

machinery. They manufactured to order and guaranteed every plow. They also were blacksmiths and horseshoers.

Thomas W. Close kept a grocery store consisting of all kinds of groceries, also pork, flour, glass, paints, oils, putty, patent medicine, earthen and wood-ware of every description, a full assortment of the various kinds of perfumery, inks and extracts and all other articles usually kept in a grocery store. C. M. Turner kept a meat market in the Adam's Block on Walnut Street.

F. Bitner also conducted a meat market and bought and sold all different kinds of farm produce. Thomas Blondin, in 1857, had just a shaving and hair cutting saloon. Anthony Hageman, proprietor of the old "Turner House" (now the Fisher Hotel), for many years advertised his business of blacksmithing with an original poem, certainly clever and unique, if not of much literary merit. John McGready was also one of the pioneer horseshoers and blacksmiths of Independence, locating here in 1857 and in the shop on North Walnut Street, south of Doctor McGready's residence, which is still occupied for the same purpose.

William C. Wright, of Fairbank, seems to have been the first regular horticulturist. He advertised all kinds of trees, vines, and shrubbery, every article sold will be warranted and customers may depend upon their being genuine.

Bartle & Wright were advertising osage orange plants for sale, begging the farmers to cease hostilities on their timber for fencing purposes and advising them to plant some of their two-year-old osage orange trees, which would make a good fence in three to five years, and declared that the winters here would not freeze them out.

Many farmers did plant them for fencing.

L. L. Walton owned a marble works on the east end of Main Street, and advertised to do everything in his line of business in a manner not to be surpassed.

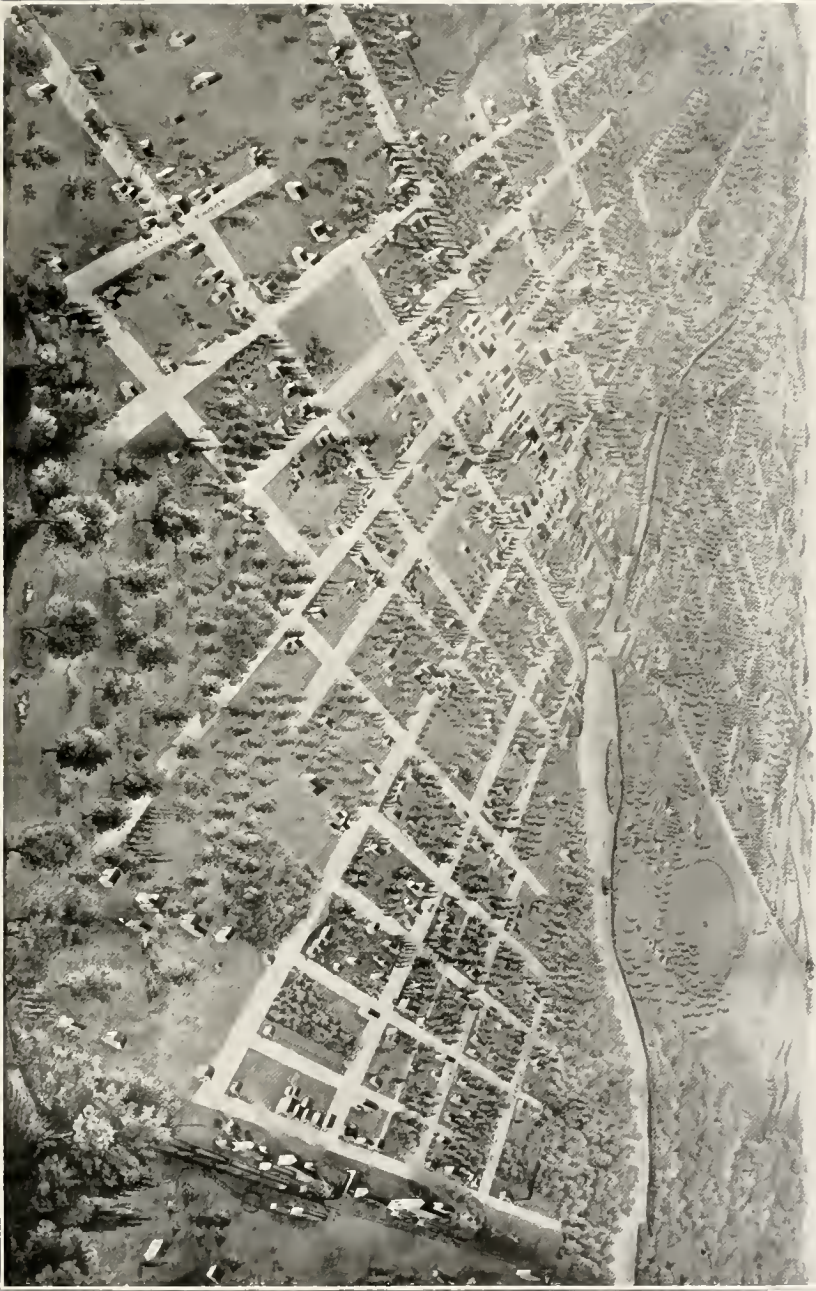
R. W. Wright was the original proprietor of the New York Store, a store that was continued for many years under that name. He advertises as being always in favor of the nimble shilling in preference to the slow dollar.

Ingalls & McEwen, builders and contractors, manufactured hand-made doors and sash.

A. H. Gillet & C. C. Welcom had located in Independence for the purpose of furnishing the citizens with all the latest styles of photographs, ambrotypes, melainotypes, sphereotypes and chemotypes.

One of the cleverest advertisements which appeared in the ad columns was of the opening of a new dry goods store. It goes something like this: "Grand show at Independence, Iowa—S. Hellman Manager and Proprietor. Doors open at 6 o'clock A. M. Performance to commence at 7 o'clock A. M. Prices of Admission—Adults Free—children (under 19 years of age), Half Price, Grand Complimentary Benefit, to the Public.

"The subscriber, thankful for past favors, respectfully informs the inhabitants that he has a splendid stock of Goods, etc., he, in return for the liberal patronage bestowed upon him, will present Three Magnificent Pieces—On Wednesday, April 29, 1857, and every day until further notice will be presented, the very popular Tragedy of Good Fits, with the following unrivalled cast: Fashionable, Gentlemen's Furnishings, Goods, and Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps,



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF INDEPENDENCE, 1868



etc. To be followed by the Melo Drama entitled *Beauty & Fashion*. An intermission of Ten Minutes to allow those making large purchases, time for Lunch, etc.

“The whole to conclude with S. Hellman’s successful Play entitled *Varieties*, the beauty of which will cause great excitement among the Ladies and Gentlemen. During the performance the proprietor will exhibit a fine stock of fresh Groceries.

“The manager promises an entire new troupe at the commencement of each season—P. S. More and finer goods given for a ‘Spanish Quarter’ than any other place in town.”

The reason we printed the above and other advertisements is to show that advertising was an acknowledged science even in those early days, and that they thoroughly believed the statement, “It pays to advertise.” Another thing which we noticed in looking over the old papers was that so many business firms, stores, hotels, etc., of other cities, like Chicago, Dubuque, Des Moines, and others, were regular patrons of our paper’s ad columns.

Besides the mercantile business, the early commerce of the county included the milling and shipping interests.

The early milling interests were largely represented by a single name, that of Samuel Sherwood, who came to this county in 1847 from Janesville, Wisconsin, with Stoughton and his party of pioneers. He was a millwright by trade, having served his apprenticeship under T. B. Hall, in Vermont. He came to Independence to put up a sawmill for Mr. Stoughton. The sawmill was built nearly on the same ground where the present flouring mill stands. Two years later, another was built a short distance from that location. In 1857 a steam sawmill was erected on the east side of the river a few rods above the bridge by Mr. Snow of Dubuque. Already there were three mills running day and night to supply the demands for lumber, and the next year records still another built in the north part of Indiana and operated by the Messrs. Clumings. These mills sawed a large amount of lumber, all of which was used in the immediate vicinity. The first flouring mill was built in 1854. In that day it was known as “The New Haven Mills,” New Haven being the name first given to that portion of the town west of the river.

Previous to this, the people of Independence had procured their flour mainly from Quasqueton, at which place a ‘custom mill’ had been in operation for several years. A ‘custom mill’ is one that only grinds the grain that the individual customers bring in (neither buys nor sells in any great amount). The New Haven Mill, like the one at Quasqueton, did for the most part a custom business, though at different times did ship considerable flour to the West and occasionally a little to Dubuque. The mill built in 1854 did a fair business for about fifteen years, being owned during all that time by Sanford Clark and Samuel Sherwood, who then thought it advisable to tear it down and build larger. This they proceeded to do, and the present structure of stone and brick was begun in the summer of 1868 and completed in two years. It was built and has always been owned by a stock company. Hon. P. C. Wilcox (a former notable citizen, long since dead), was at first the principal stockholder. The Quasqueton Mill (which unfortunately was burned in 1880), was purchased by the Independence Mill Company and their capital stock was increased to \$120,000.

In 1880, Mr. Sherwood was the largest owner. The property was at that time and always had been lucrative, realizing in one of its best years a net profit of 11 per cent to the stockholders, but later years it could scarcely pay expenses and now is used more for generating light than for milling purposes, the city having made arrangements with the mill to furnish light whenever possible at a specified cost, and they grind a little feed, but do not do any other milling.

During the existence of the "Old Mill," the supply of wheat was obtained entirely from this county, but when wheat failed in this locality they shipped it in, principally from Minnesota, but largely also from Dakota Territory, which at that time raised the best wheat. Their best market was Chicago, then St. Louis and after that New Orleans.

In 1865 there were ten improved water-powers in the county. In June, 1862, Messrs. Dyre, Young & Co., built a fine flouring mill on Cotter Creek and manufactured a very superior article.

Thomas Scarecliff was one of the earliest grain dealers in the county and pursued that business until he was the oldest representative. In 1856 he began buying grain in a small way. His first operation was the purchase of 500 bushels of oats in Linn County, which he sold here at a price ranging from 90 cents to \$1 a bushel. The very next year the price dropped 10 cents a bushel. During that year he made a nice little speculation on 200 bushels of oats purchased here at 12 cents a bushel, shipped by wagon to Earlville (then the terminus of the railroad), then taken by rail to Dubuque and then down the river to St. Louis, where he sold them at 75 cents per bushel. Two years later, in 1859, when the railroad was extended to Independence, he had 2,000 bushels of wheat and as many of oats ready for shipment by the first freight East. Mr. Scarecliff at one time owned several granaries and an elevator at the Central Depot, but retired from that business several years ago.

At one time, about 1873, the wheat crop began to fail and very little was planted from then on, which made a big difference in the amount of shipping at first, but very soon the farmers began raising a more diversified crop of grains (chiefly corn, oats and flax), and an increased production of all, so that it kept the grain business increasing for many years. During the wheat raising years corn was merely a side issue, as wheat has been of late years. In 1880 it was estimated that 100,000 bushels of corn were annually shipped from Independence, 200,000 bushels of oats, and 100,000 bushels of flax, while in 1879 there was only 40,000 bushels of flax shipped. At that time farmers had only been raising it three years.

William Brown was another of the pioneer grain dealers, entered into the business about the same time as Mr. Scarecliff, and, like him, was a successful dealer. He owned a fine elevator at the I. C. Depot and was in that business for many years. The constantly increasing production of grain which, on account of poor shipping facilities, necessitated its being stored at the depot, prompted the building of several elevators. This agitation was begun in 1861, and Messrs. Candee and Putnam were the first to respond to the need. They contracted with Sam Sherwood to build a spacious elevator with a storage capacity of 10,000 bushels. It was divided into twenty-eight bins each holding a carload, or 350 bushels, and could be emptied in one hour. These elevators proved a great help to the farmers. In 1864 a stock company of Independence business men built



Main Street in 1860



Old saw and grist mill



Old dam at Independence



Old Methodist Church



Old Episcopal Church

EARLY SCENES IN INDEPENDENCE





another fine, new elevator, and the next year Newman & Johnson built one with a capacity of 30,000 bushels and fitted with all the modern conveniences of that day, among them Mr. Haradon's grain distributor. Winegar & Company built one with a capacity of 10,000 bushels, and also J. F. Lyon. Several other elevators and storage houses were built in those years, and they all were kept busy. In 1862 about three hundred thousand dollars worth of produce was shipped from the Independence station.

The value of produce shipped from Independence station for the year 1862, estimated at a low average:

Wheat .....	\$97,869.00
Oats .....	2,417.85
Live hogs .....	76,270.00
Dressed pork .....	12,554.22
Cattle .....	12,480.00
Butter .....	8,886.64
Eggs .....	477.15
Barley .....	1,518.00
Hides .....	925.36
Wool .....	2,298.00
	\$215,697.22

And this did not include the miscellaneous shipments of nearly half a million pounds, which would probably bring the total value up to nearly three hundred thousand dollars. Then quite a considerable amount was shipped from Jesup and Winthrop, and also a quantity from the lower part of the county was hauled to Cedar Rapids. The imports into the county amounted to about two hundred thousand dollars, so the balance of one hundred thousand dollars was profit. A fine showing for war times and a new country. In November, 1863, about seventy earloads of wheat and oats were stored at the I. C. depot awaiting shipment, and the shippers were obliged to submit to a three weeks' delay in getting their produce to the eastern markets. In February, 1865, a great quantity was detained from lack of cars. Besides the great inconvenience of being compelled to store their grain, and often losing on the market price, they were compelled to pay exorbitant prices for cartage across the river at Dubuque, and suffered much loss in measure as well. To overcome these obstacles, the shippers and merchants held a big convention at Dubuque in March, 1865, to consider the transfer grievances. Independence sent nineteen delegates; P. C. Wilcox was elected president and L. M. Putnam and Jacob Rich were on important committees. Mr. W. A. Jones gave a speech before the convention that brought down the house.

In 1861 P. C. Wilcox shipped a ton and one-half of rags, the first shipment of this kind ever made. This was an indication that the county was becoming richer. Formerly people wore every vestige of their clothing.

The pioneer dealer in live stock in this county was E. Cobb, who came to Independence in 1853 from Illinois. The first business he engaged in after coming here was to keep a hotel in the house which he built on West Main Street,

opposite the Hawthorne School, Independence, and in which he lived until his death, June 3, 1914. He continued in this business about six years. In the year 1857 he embarked in the business of buying and selling hogs and cattle. He owned a large farm of nearly three hundred acres adjoining Independence and here he kept the stock he bought and fed them for the market. On this farm, just west of the city, he had one of the largest barns in the county at the time it was built, but this one burned (spontaneous combustion was thought to be the cause), and he built another somewhat smaller. At first he dealt about equally in hogs and cattle, but since about 1870 he has dealt almost entirely in cattle and made a great success of this business. He shipped the first carload of cattle that was taken from here over the Illinois Central in 1859, and also the first over the old Burlington road in 1873. He never shipped any live hogs before the railroad was built, always butchering and dressing them, but many large droves of cattle were driven East previous to that time, sometimes being taken across the Mississippi River on the ice and sometimes by ferryboat.

A Mr. J. D. Myers was connected with Mr. Cobb in business from 1860 on for six or seven years. He used to have his cattle yards at Independence, in the Third Ward, where the L. W. Goen and D. F. Logan residences are now situated.

The circumstances which led Mr. Cobb to enter the stock buying business are very interesting. At that time stock buyers went through the country buying cattle and hogs on credit, agreeing to pay for them after they were sold, but very often purposely forgetting the agreement entirely. Mr. Cobb got together a little money and offered to pay cash for stock, and this, of course, appealed to the farmers who had suffered at the hands of unscrupulous stock dealers, so he could get a trade and buy for less money than others. An instance showing how unusual were his methods is told by his son. A man from Waterloo, twenty-five miles west of Independence, having heard of Mr. Cobb's cash business, walked all the way down here to see if it were true. When he met Mr. Cobb he said, "I've heard that you pay cash for stock. Is it so?" Mr. Cobb replied that he did.

The man had a very fine cow for sale and, after describing the animal, extolling all of her good qualities, he asked Mr. Cobb what he would give him for her. Mr. Cobb replied that if she were as good as he described he would pay \$7.00 for her. The man walked back home, got his cow and drove her all the way back. The entire trip covered 100 miles and took four days, which goes to show the difference between the thrift of those days compared with present times. In those early days it was necessary to procure a license of the United States Government before one could engage in the live stock business. These licenses were good for only one year and cost \$10 (a high priced tax considering the value of stock). We have before us one issued to Mr. E. Cobb, dated May 1, 1866, No. 1456, and signed by D. B. Henderson, internal revenue collector. Mr. Cobb until about the year 1907 was actively engaged in the live stock business.

William A. Jones was also a pioneer in the live stock business in this county, commencing in 1859, about two years later than Mr. Cobb. He started on the completion of the Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad, now the Illinois Central. Like Mr. Cobb, he had been in the hotel business, not, however, in this county, but Fayette. He came to Independence from the State of New York in 1855, was engaged for a few years in general merchandise, including lumber, then opened a hotel in Fayette, which he conducted for about two years, then returned to



A Pioneer Clapboard Home



Old High School



Independence in 1863



Old Independence Bridge



Regal House, Early Independence Hotel



An Early Fire Company

EARLY INDEPENDENCE SCENES



Independence and engaged in the live stock business, which he followed for many years, and until he retired. At first he was in partnership with P. C. Wileox, who, so history states, "furnished the capital and shared the profits," but their first transaction was a loss to the firm of about fifteen hundred dollars, but, despite these first failures, the partnership proved successful and continued from 1859 to 1865. (After that Mr. Jones carried on the business alone.) Their first shipment was of hogs, on January 3, 1861. They numbered about a thousand and filled thirteen cars, and was the largest drove of hogs that ever arrived in Dubuque. The weather turned suddenly cold about the time they reached Dubuque, and in forty-eight hours the river was frozen over with ice sufficiently thick to be crossed with teams. Over this natural bridge the whole herd of swine was driven, and as it was very smooth and slippery, had to be sprinkled over with sand to enable the porkers to skate across. From there they were to be shipped either to New York or New Orleans, as the markets induced. In 1860 he began to ship cattle, the number that year being only 200, but later he shipped as high as five thousand head of cattle and thirty thousand hogs, and he made good profits on his sales. In the early days one could start a business on a very little capital, as is proven by the statement that, although Mr. Jones, at the close of his partnership with Mr. Wileox, had realized quite a considerable amount of money, but after paying up some heavy debts incurred by previous losses, had just \$150 to begin business on his own account.

There were several hotels advertised in the county—one called White's Hotel, which was situated at the corner of Main and Court streets. This house had been recently (in 1857), fitted up to accommodate 100 guests, and special mention was made of the good stone stable attached for the benefit of hackmen and others. Thomas Sherwood was the proprietor. The building still stands and is what is now the Regal Hotel, and the old stone stable was still intact until last winter (1914), when part of it collapsed. Mr. Beaman was proprietor of the "Cottage Hotel," situated near the I. C. R. R. depot, at Independence, afterwards the Union House and now used as a store.

Another hotel was the Montour House, situated where the Commercial Bank now is. Mr. E. W. Purdy was the proprietor. The old Cobb House, on West Main Street, was formerly conducted as a hotel by Mr. Cobb. The Baldwin Hotel, situated on the corner of Grove and Independence streets, Fairbank, was operated by N. and C. A. Baldwin. The Quasqueton Hotel, located on Main Street, Quasqueton, was kept by A. P. Burrhus. The Empire House was one of the first hotels built and Herman Morse was proprietor. Board, \$3.00 per week.

In those days there were fully as many, if not more, firms engaged in the real estate business than there are at present. (Land brokerage as it was then called.) All the law firms besides the regular agencies dabbled considerably in this business. E. B. Older, O. C. Lee, P. A. Older, and D. S. Lee were probably the largest "bankers, dealers in exchange and land agents." Their listed farms for sale filled two columns of fine print. E. Brewer and O. H. P. Roszell and George W. Bemis constituted another important real estate firm. In 1856 Elzy Wilson also had located here to engage in that business. F. C. Bartle and T. T. White was still another firm, and R. W. Wright & Company were engaged in the business later.

Among the early professional men was H. S. Ward, M. D., an itinerant physician, surgeon and dentist, who maintained an office here for several years, but was a resident of Byron Township, and Dr. W. Grimes advertised as a surgeon dentist. Dr. Horatio Bryant, Dr. P. Tabor, and Dr. H. H. Hunt were among the pioneer doctors, and all three practiced here many years and lived here until they died. Dr. R. Clarke was a dentist of Independence in the early '50s. Miss C. Marriott established a millinery store in Independence in July, 1857, with a splendid assortment of Paris and New York styles. She also advertised "dress and mantilla making." Dr. W. O. Smith was also among the pioneer doctors. Dr. D. T. Haskell, homeopathic physician, was located at Greeley's Grove, Buchanan County. Besides these there were several women practitioners. Mrs. J. W. Ecklee had her office at Doctor Tabor's. Mrs. S. W. Blood was another experienced practitioner. Dr. Frederick Reimer advertised as a "Praktischer Arzt," office at the Western Brewery, Independence, Iowa. Dr. John Milford Cox was the first regular veterinary. And the dignity of the law was upheld by S. S. Allen, L. W. Hart, James Jamison, D. L. Deyo, J. S. Woodward, W. G. Doman, Cornelius Hedges, D. S. Lee, C. F. Leavitt, Lorenzo Moore and C. E. Lathrop.

Quasqueton in the early days could boast of more different and exclusive lines than Independence. Here are a few of the familiar names of that day: G. P. Hayslip was a hardware merchant in Quasqueton in the '50s. R. L. Thompson was a druggist. George P. Martin kept a boot and shoe store. A. B. Parkell was a merchant tailor and sold all kinds of gentlemen's furnishings. A. H. & T. Hyde were architects and builders and could perform all kinds of architectural drafting and building and general carpenter work; also made brick. They had 1,000,000 brick on hand for sale and, having gotten their yard into active operation, were prepared to receive orders for pressed and common brick to any extent. C. H. Mills was agent for the sale of ornamental marble work.

These pioneer days when the importation of goods was so expensive and difficult certainly engendered both economy and ingenuity. Much that we now buy, manufactured perhaps one thousand miles away, was manufactured at home or by the pioneer merchants. All the furniture was of home manufacture, except that which was brought with the pioneer from the East. In Quasqueton Messrs. Lewis & Kent had a furniture manufactory and had a large warehouse full of an excellent assortment of tables, bedsteads, what-nots, bureaus, chairs, washstands, etc., of every creditable style and finish. They used the water power to run their turning lathe and had every appliance necessary to the manufacture of furniture.

In Independence, Marquette & McKensie had a similar establishment and had all the facilities for their trade. They also manufactured Ingall's patent seed sowers, at one time having a contract order for 100 of them.

G. B. Rogers had a sugar mill foundry in Independence in 1856 and there was quite a demand.

In 1864 Mr. James Forrester started quite an extensive brick plant on his farm adjoining Independence. He had secured the contract to furnish the brick for the Catholic Church and several other buildings to be erected that summer. About this time a lime kiln was built at Otterville by a company of the citizens.

Z. Stout was one of the first lumber merchants. The Killfether stone quarry, situated about three-fourths of a mile east of Independence, was conducted by Bonner & Harrold. In 1858 a pottery was started on Court Street, nearly opposite the courthouse, where all kinds of pottery was being made. The manufacturer considered the clay found here of a superior quality for such purposes.





## CHAPTER VII

### AGRICULTURE

#### THE VIRGIN SOIL—YESTERDAY AND TODAY

The virgin soil of Buchanan, with its rich black loam, its fine mixture of sand, its subsoil of clay, its fine drainage and abundant water courses, its wide expanses of prairie of undulating character, all furnish an ideal spot for farming purposes, as the very earliest settlers, who had come from the cramped, hilly, rocky and thin soil of the New England States, or the swamps of the Gulf States, or the worn-out, poorly cultivated negro-worked farms of the old South knew and appreciated. This may be an exaggerated comparison, but naturally only those who were dissatisfied with their surroundings and thought to better them would seek new and unexplored country, so we inferred they came from those barren spots we have described. But suffice it to say Buchanan County has proved and is proving all that could be expected of her, even to the most unreal dreams of a super-imaginative brain, as reference to the 1914 statistics will testify, and in contemplation of the past phenomenal progress, what can we not expect of the future! Not until every acre of this rich, productive, valuable soil is under cultivation and made to bear fruit shall we have reached our climax; not until this woeful, willful extravagance and undercultivation of land has ceased, shall we be able to estimate our resources; not until our thousand and hundred acre farms are divided into small plots, as is the greater part of Europe, can we know the full extent of its economical and numerical support.

But this future time is as far, if not farther, distant than the time when those early settlers, Clark and Kessler, broke the first prairie and commenced farming in April, 1842. By June they had ten acres broken, which they planted to beans and corn, and although frost did not appear till October 10, there was not time enough for the crop to properly mature, but as it was their only available means of support, it was a much cherished crop and all hands, men and women, worked diligently the day after the frost to gather it in. During that summer of 1842 all provisions had to be brought from Ede's Grove, in Delaware County, a distance of sixty miles, this was the nearest market. One person was sent with an ox team to bring supplies for the whole community. For two or three years corn, potatoes and beans constituted the entire agricultural production, but soon the settlers began to raise wheat. At that time a mill had been built at Quasqueton, where they could have it ground, so they were not in danger of being compelled to subsist on boiled corn, with venison and honey, for months at a stretch. Soon the wheat crop became the important crop, exceeding all others in acreage,

value and production. Each year more and more land was sown to wheat; in 1862 one-third more than the previous year.

The first farms were entries of Government land and constituted generally 160 acres. This was farmed in a simple, crude manner, the only object being to raise enough for home consumption for the family and the few domestic animals, and to barter or exchange for household necessities. Not until the railroad was built through the county were farm products raised for market. Then the first real impetus to farming began. Wheat continued as the principal and most lucrative crop until successive failures through drought, rust, and chinch bugs discouraged the farmers from raising it, and they turned their attention to other cereals; then corn and oats became the most important crop, and now corn takes the lead, being the most extensively raised and the most suitable to our soil and climate. The first we read of the chinch bug in this locality was in 1861. In the counties surrounding Buchanan this malicious insect had completely destroyed large fields of wheat, but emigrated into this county too late to do much damage; but in the next few consecutive years the pests utterly ruined thousands of acres and thousands of dollars worth of wheat. In 1864 only half a crop was thrashed. Many of the farmers burned over their fields to protect the other crops, which were molested as soon as the substance was all gone in the wheat fields. Another method to get rid of them was to dig trenches, which were filled with kerosene and set afire, when the bugs began to look for greener fields, and even sorghum was used in the trenches to catch and hold them fast. But all these annihilators did not wipe them out of existence, and only after the farmers abandoned their great wheat project did they rid themselves of this pernicious insect, and for many years there was no wheat to speak of grown in this county, and not until recent years has it been attempted again. This was a dreadful calamity to the early farmers, who had come West with but little money, and bought their farms and were heavily in debt for their land, machinery, and farm buildings, and who depended on the wheat crop to make payments. Wheat was the quickest crop to turn, sowing being done in April and harvesting last of July, in 1864, and prices ran as high as \$1.75 to \$2.00 per bushel, and only two years before it sold for 60 cents per bushel. What county can show an earlier, better quality, or higher price than this? The farmers raised quite a bit of barley after the wheat failure. Japanese wheat was introduced into this county during the years when it was extensively grown and proved to be very prolific, both in seed and fodder. A Mr. Reynolds of Littleton was selling enough seed for a shilling to produce in two seasons 200 bushels of seed. Winter wheat, too, was being experimented with in the early '60s and proved a successful venture, yielding twenty-five bushels per acre.

The quality and quantity of corn raised in early times could not compare with our present output, which is of a superfine grade and constitutes over three-fifths of the entire cereal crop. It is safe to say that it commands more attention than any other, and perhaps all the other crops combined. The greatest amount of care is taken to procure the best seed and to try it thoroughly and particularly. Corn production has become a veritable science, requiring study and application to acquire the best results, as the average acreage production and market value of our product proves. All over the country they are having corn contests, conducted either by agricultural schools, the Government, the state, newspapers, or

individuals, as an incentive to the boy farmers, with wonderful and unbelievable results.

The value of good corn is not entirely a new idea, nor are these contests, for away back in 1863 it was beginning to be appreciated, for in the county papers of that date was an announcement that William Winson, secretary of the Iowa Farmers' College, offered a premium of \$15.00 for the best variety and quality of corn suited for general cultivation in the north half of the state, and the same amount for the south half, the specimens to include not less than one-half bushel of ears. All facts relative to preparation of ground, sowing, cultivation, etc., to be stated. Like premiums were paid for the best specimens of winter and spring wheat, a peck of each. In the first shipments after the railroad went through there was no corn, owing to lack of production.

Corn, too, in the early days had its own peculiar pest and destroyer—the cut worm and corn eater—and they worked havoc in some localities, totally destroying whole fields; and the Hessian fly and potato bug were rampant some years and did untold damage, too. Nowadays every bit of corn is utilized; the stocks, which formerly were left in the fields and plowed under or used for pasturage, are now cut up and put in silos for winter feed.

Silos are becoming a necessity and nearly every progressive farmer has one or several; sometimes four are built in a group.

We would not forget the potato crop which has always been and always will be one of the most necessary, being one of our fundamental foods, and was one of the earliest planted in this county (in the second summer). In 1865, 57,130 bushels were raised; in 1910, 127,236 bushels, over twice as many, and sweet potatoes had increased from 9 to 38 bushels. Onions, cabbages, melons and other vegetables are raised entirely for family use and the home market. All the sugar beets, and most of the sweet corn, are raised for the canneries. In 1909, 169 acres were planted and produced 836 tons of sugar beets, all sold to the Waverly Sugar Beet Factory, but now this industry is a thing of the past, the factory having been closed down recently. The Independence Canning Factory takes practically all the sweet corn produced in the county.

To estimate what were the principal crops, we have the monthly statement of exports made by the agent of the D. & S. C. R. R. depot for the year 1861, which totalizes 273,430 bushels of wheat, 7,218 bushels oats, 2,578 bushels corn, 1,261 bushels barley, 764,085 pounds pork, 58,534 pounds eggs, 116,810 pounds butter, 135 head of cattle, 568,666 pounds miscellaneous freight.

This is the first record of shipments that we were able to find. The earliest record of prices was as follows: Wheat, 35 cents per bushel, corn, 20 cents, oats, 20 cents, potatoes, 15 cents per bushel, beans, 60 cents, beef, 8 cents, cheese, 12½ cents, butter 8 cents, lard, 10 cents, eggs, 6 cents per dozen, hay, \$3.00 per ton, wood, \$2.00 to \$2.50 per cord.

At first the only hay was the wild prairie grass, but shortly farmers began to see the advantages and necessity of tame grass and began to raise principally timothy and clover, and from a small acreage to begin with, it has increased, until now, it constitutes one of the principal crops, and about one-fourth of the cultivated acreage in the county. A great amount of tame hay and some straw is baled and shipped to the eastern markets at prices ranging from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per ton for timothy and \$5.00 or \$6.00 for straw. We might think that

the prices of hay were much higher now than ever before, but in April, 1862, timothy hay sold for \$10.00 a ton and very scarce at that, and wild prairie hay was \$5.00 and \$6.00 per ton. The short crop of grass of the previous summer and the long, hard winter, were responsible for these extreme prices. Prairie fires raged through the country in those early days and destroyed much of the wild hay, besides doing extensive damage to grain and buildings. For years this was one of the dreads of the settlers. Sometimes for days and nights at a time they were compelled to fight these fearful fires. Every fall dense smoke hovered over the prairies for weeks after. Precautions such as plowing around buildings and hay and grain stacks and burning back were used, but if fire ever got started in the heavy, long prairie grass there was no stopping it until it had spent its fury. Early settlers tell that the wild grass in the sloughs grew so dense and tall that the top of a man's head, riding horseback, was just discernible, and the rank, wiry blades switched him in the face. Some scientists claim that the reason for these broad expanses of prairie, is that trees and shrubs were destroyed until the prairie soil would not generate trees, but this hardly seems credible in view of the fact that trees will grow luxuriantly all over the prairies. Maples, cottonwoods, elms, willows, nut and catalpa, all planted by the early settlers, lived and thrived beyond their vainest hopes. Some people think that if man should abandon these vast fertile prairies and leave them to the care of nature and the birds, they would become a vast expanse of forest, and certainly the theory has ground for credence because the soil seems perfectly adapted to tree culture. But this question as we have expressed in a previous chapter is question for the dim and shadowy future to elucidate. Now the broad expanses of prairie are divided into farms, many of them still outlined by trees planted by the pioneers, who thought a live tree fence a great improvement over the stone and rail fences they were accustomed to (this was before the days of wire fencing). Now those same tree fences that our forefathers planted with such care are rapidly disappearing, being cut down; they shade too much of the field, take the moisture and substance of the soil and their spreading roots are a nuisance. The white willow was used the most extensively for fencing, having such a wonderful quick growth and it, above all trees, now elicits the most vengeance, as it is also the most persistent and enduring.

The early county papers advertised extensively trees for fencing and several nurseries were supported in and about Independence, that being their principal output. In 1865, there were 4,734 acres of planted timber in the county.

Alfalfa is one of the newly introduced crops and although but a few of the farmers plant it, undoubtedly it is a coming crop.

To try to describe or even imagine the processes of early farming is rather difficult. It seems sort of pitiable to contemplate the vast amount of unnecessary, wasted labor, the hardships, privations, failures, and lack of remuneration that these pioneer farmers endured, but this, of course, is only in comparison with modern farm life and methods, and safe to say our processes will appear just as crude and illogical as the past does to us. But when we read in a paper, dated 1865, of an old Englishman, living in Fairbank Township, cutting all of his hay, 3½ tons, as well as his oats, 1¼ acres, with a little old English ease knife, it seems not only incredible, but pitiable. He worked from morn till dewy eve, literally shaving the fields blade by blade, and when the kind and sympa-

thetic neighbors offered him their "modern" scythe and cradle, he tried to use them but did not succeed and returned to his little old case knife. He began his labor early in the spring and continued all summer, day after day, early and late, and by fall would have secured feed and fodder for his one cow. This is an extreme case, but the astounding thing was that he lived in Iowa, and in Buchanan County. After the days of the "scythe and cycle" came the much-improved "cradle" days, which not only cut the grain, but held the bundle; then appeared the first reapers, which required at least ten men to complete the task, but modern invention has improved this machine until it required but one or two to do the work formerly requiring ten or a dozen. Just so with all farm implements, they have improved so much in the past fifty years that if the progress continues at a corresponding ratio we can almost picture all farming being done with gasoline or steam engine attachments, or at a wider stretch of imagination, by a centralized plant operated by a few experts and by the pressure of a few buttons. And just as the work has been improved and lightened in the field, it has also been in the farmhouse, although not to such an extent, women being slow to adopt and demand new improved appliances. But nevertheless, work has diminished greatly from the time when threshing with the old flail required more time, if not more hands, when numberless pails of milk had to be skimmed twice a day, when cheese, butter, lard, candles, soap, all the smoked and fresh meats, sausage and headcheese, dried fruits and vegetables, besides the making of materials and garments, were a matter of home production.

The cream separator, with the creamery for a regular customer, the modern churn, washing machine, pump and wood saw, all operated by the gasoline engine, the fine up-to-date heating and lighting plants and water system now installed in the best country homes, surpass the luxuries of kings and queens of a hundred years ago. Yes, less than that. And the old ramshackle ox cart, the old squeaky spring wagon, and even the pretentious top buggy, have now been replaced by the automobile and Ford. Nowadays nearly every farmer can afford at least a Ford. This is a meager comparison between days that were with days that are, and the improvement in crops and live stock on the farms is just as marked. Years ago the great majority of farmers paid more attention to wind and weather than to soil and seed. Now their first attention is to the soil, and secondly, although not of minor importance, is the seed, not intimating that the weather is not a most fundamental necessary adjunct, but here in Iowa, and particularly in Buchanan County, we are practically assured of the right kind, at seed time and at harvest, and most of our promised crop failures prove to be mental drought or drench. Farmers as a class, are rather inclined to be pessimistic about their crops and the prices they receive (you will pardon the criticism when we acknowledge the fault), "we" know, because "we" are "they," invariably we are agreeably disappointed in the harvest, for no matter what failures of crops are anticipated, there is enough and to spare. The time of real crop failures here is past, we hope, and now could we but stamp out that awful pestilence, hog cholera, we would all be literally rolling in wealth. Other diseases ravage the domestic animals, but nothing is so widespread and devastating as hog cholera, which has destroyed millions of dollars' worth of property, besides the millions more or less that have been spent by individuals,

schools and Government for preventatives and cures, and it remains the scourge and drawback of this splendid, lucrative industry, which every few years sweeps through the country, leaving death and destruction in its wake. Blessed be the man who first discovers a cure; everlasting monuments and eternal fame and glory shall be his reward.

Oxen were largely used in former times for farm work and even for driving purposes, and the census reports of as late as 1865 show 549 in this county. Now they have entirely disappeared.

Horses have always been well thought of here, and consequently are of a good quality and far above the average in other parts of the country. If you are at all doubtful of this, just notice the splendid, strong, well-kept farm teams you meet on a trip to the country, compared with the small, scrawny, underfed, shambling equines you see elsewhere. During war times horses sold very high, prices ranging from \$75 to \$100, caused by the great demand for the army. At one time 400 horses were bought in and around the county at prices ranging from \$112 to \$125, for the cavalry troops, but later years they became so plentiful that a good horse often sold for \$20 or \$25. Now they are higher and undoubtedly of a superior quality. Horses, sheep and fowls, like all other farm products, have been greatly improved in this county, better breeds and better care having caused this condition. Just within the last few years has the value of superior stock been generally and thoroughly appreciated, and now the progressive farmer studies, selects, nurtures and improves his stock as zealously and carefully as he does his children, and often with more zeal and care. The best of housing, feeding and grooming is none too good for his fancy, high-priced stock. In Buchanan County we have some very fine stock, as is testified by the blue ribbons awarded at the state fair to Buchanan County exhibitors. But to say that good stock was not at all appreciated in the early times is a misstatement, for we read of some of those pioneer farmers who scoured the entire country for the quality of breeding they desired; especially was this true of their efforts with sheep.

In those days, this county was considered perfectly adapted to sheep raising, and many of the farmers went into it on an extensive and expensive scale, hundreds of head were brought in from Michigan, Wisconsin and the New England States. The first important flock was introduced by Mr. Ephraim Leach, in October, 1861, when he brought 640 head of fine Merino sheep from Michigan. Mr. C. H. Jakway, of Buffalo Grove, was another of the original and largest importers of sheep in the entire state. He owned some very valuable stock; two fine ewes and three bucks he had selected from three celebrated flocks in Vermont cost him \$1,000. Messrs. Mills and Bryant brought 1,600 sheep from Michigan. Most of these flocks averaged about \$2.00 per head. In 1864, there were 9,830 sheep in our county which had increased to 15,858 in 1865. Day after day enormous flocks were driven through Independence for other parts of the state. Such was the extent of this industry that a project for a woolen mill was greatly agitated through the papers, and at a meeting held at Quasqueton, the farmers subscribed \$4,000 and the proposition to lease or buy the Quasqueton water power by a joint company seemed a most favorable project, but the project never materialized.

Ede's opened a wool carding establishment on Pine Creek which turned out excellent work but great numbers of valuable sheep were killed by dogs and sometimes by wolves; sometimes owners losing almost their entire droves. Dogs killed \$1,428 worth in one year which at \$2.00 per head makes a startlingly large number.

This great slaughter on the sheep folds and the eventual appearance of foot-rot, caused by the continued dampness of the soil, discouraged the pursuance of this industry, but in the last few years it has again come into favor. Our 1910 census report shows 8,097 sheep in the county and their value as \$40,925, worth almost three times as much per head as in the '60s.

The poultry industry in early days was of minor importance, home consumption being the only incentive. Eggs ranged from 5 to 12 cents per dozen, and in the market reports poultry was scarcely ever mentioned, so we conclude there was no demand for such delicacies. The only quotations we found were in 1858 and 1859, 4 cents per pound; in another \$1.00 per dozen, although at that same time they were selling at 35 cents and 40 cents apiece in Dubuque, but probably the abundance of quail, prairie chicken and other wild game had much to do in governing the price. Quail were 60 cents per dozen and prairie chickens 75 cents. Eggs were shipped by the pound and in the early reports we have no means of knowing the number of dozens.

Dairying has always been quite a forte of this community. In the census of 1865, 311,801 pounds of butter and 20,097 pounds of cheese was the output. The prices were 8 to 10 cents for butter and 6 to 10 cents for cheese. This industry had not increased as might be expected, in fact, has decreased; the 1910 census showing 258,012 pounds of butter and no cheese produced, but 456,836 pounds of butterfat being sold. An explanation of this might be that creameries have monopolized those industries and much of the cream is made into ice cream, and although the number of milch cows has increased from 4,372 in 1865 to 18,607 in 1910, over four times as many, the dairy products have greatly diminished.

To be sure the largest per cent of our cattle are raised for beef, but what becomes of those thousands of gallons of milk is a mystery.

Bee raising was and is of some importance here in Buchanan County. In 1865, there were 936 colonies of bees which produced 10,168 pounds of honey. This amount had increased to 1,631 colonies and 24,297 pounds of honey.

The manufacture of sorghum was begun in this county and flourished quite extensively for a number of years; some sugar was made too, although not of as good a quality as the syrup. The price of sugar was so extremely high that any substitute was greeted with cordial appreciation. Refined sugar, or granulated, as we now call it, sold for 12 and 13 cents per pound, crushed and pulverized, 16½ cents, and even brown sugar was 10 and 12 cents per pound, and molasses and syrups ranged from 65 cents per gallon for the poorest molasses, up to 90 cents per gallon for the best syrups. Mr. Matthias Harter was one of the first experimenters and manufacturers of sorghum, syrup and sugar in the state, and it was his boast that he could make those articles as good as could be manufactured from southern sugar cane, and sold his syrup for 50 cents per gallon. Mr. Harter went into it very extensively for a new venture, expending \$1,500 the first year, most of which was a total loss owing to poor seed and production and

buying a worthless boiling apparatus, but nevertheless he was confident in the eventual success of the sorghum industry here, and by his perseverance succeeded in making 800 gallons of first-class syrup and 300 pounds of fairly good sugar in 1861. He also manufactured rum and alcohol from the sorghum. From all these evidences, this plant was destined to become one of the most productive grown in America, the seed being equal to corn for feeding stock and the stalk producing sugar, rum, alcohol and even an adipose substance from which candles could be made, but with the material decrease in the cost of sugar and sorghums, the demand for home manufacture became less and less and the saving in manufacturing it did not compensate for the labor expended. It took a great deal of skill to make it right, much of the home product being of a black, rubbery consistency hardly fit to use. In 1861 about 10,000 gallons of sorghum and 1,000 pounds of sugar were made. Myers Miller was the largest manufacturer, making 960 gallons. Harter & Bush made 850 gallons, Timson 800 gallons. Ransom and T. C. Bartle each 700 gallons, besides many others who were in the business. This at only 50 cents per gallon (the price paid here) gives \$5,000—quite a material saving. Mr. Ransom Bartle made 200 pounds of sugar and Mr. Harter 300 pounds, and that when it was an experiment for this county, though later the amount of sorghum syrup had increased to 28,815 gallons while the sorghum sugar had dwindled to one pound. The 1910 statistics show 55 acres of sorghum cane planted and 4,057 gallons the production.

A rash conclusion by the manufacturers of that time was that sugar and syrup manufacture would be our principal industries and that in future years Buchanan County would produce all the sugar and molasses it used. Advertisements for sorghum seed were important items in the papers and great controversy arose between the various manufacturers as to methods employed. Numerous sugar evaporators were invented by local geniuses to promote the facilities.

Many different articles appeared in the Buchanan County agricultural reports which have since become obsolete, such as hops, tobacco, lint, wine, and even "coal" of which fifty bushels were mined in Buffalo Township in 1865.

In 1865 there was produced 415¾ pounds of hops, 8,073 pounds of tobacco, 776 pounds of lint, and 177 gallons of wine.

Besides all the other important industries was that of fruit growing. This soil was thought to be perfectly adapted to all kinds of fruit growing and farmers were urged to go into it extensively—at the County Fair in 1871 E. B. Older exhibited ten varieties of grapes and three of pears. Dr. Warne exhibited several varieties of grapes and some peaches. Hundreds of apple trees were planted and even peaches, and pears to some extent while the cultivation of grapes was extensively engaged in: this climate was considered particularly adapted to it.

At the First Annual Fair of the Buchanan County Agricultural Society held in Independence, September, 1871, the show of fruit was especially fine and attracted much attention, being a comparatively new industry in this county. Fifteen different collections of apples, embracing from five to thirty varieties were exhibited. J. S. Bouck showed over sixty varieties of apples, thirty-three of which were his own raising. Some 30,563 fruit trees were in the county in 1865 of which only 1,917 were bearing. Now there are over 38,000 but what number are bearing trees we can not state. Apples are the main crop of fruit, there being 25,717 trees, bearing 14,551 bushels; there are 147 peach and nectarine trees which bore



A BRUGHANAN COUNTY FARM





32 bushels. Small fruit, such as cherries, grapes, currants, and strawberries seemed to flourish and gave promise of becoming one of the principal interests here, but now is of minor importance and mostly grown for home consumption, but are nevertheless of fine quality and flavor. Many of the orchards have died out and although new orchards have been planted, just what Buchanan County can produce in this way is yet to be seen. There were several fine fruit farms in the county. Mrs. I. Knight, east of Independence, had a fine orchard, some of her varieties of apples weighed over a pound apiece; one owned by J. S. Bouek, one mile west of Independence, and I. Turner, Charles Crary, George Parish, S. F. Searles, W. E. Hill, J. C. Neidy, Stephen Pearsall, J. G. Litts and others were extensively engaged in fruit growing. Mr. George Black has a fine horticultural farm just north of Independence and produces many excellent and rare varieties of fruit and flowers.

An item that shows that the early Buchanan County farmers were progressive appeared in one of the county papers thus: "In 1861, 100 reapers were sold in Independence at \$150 apiece." This shows an expenditure of \$15,000 for an implement new and comparatively little tried. It was estimated that \$10,000 was expended on other farm machinery that year and the day of agricultural machinery was just commencing. Practically all of this money (as it still does) goes outside the state, a cause for deep concern to those zealous, ambitious people and this opinion was expressed in a long article by the editor of the Guardian in which he urged the immediate correction of this state of affairs by manufacturing our own implements and moreover he confidently expected that soon we would have manufactories that would supply not only our own need but other counties.

The idea of these early times was to supply every need by home industries. We quote the above to show how far we have drifted away from this conclusion. Quite a bit of simpler machinery was manufactured here in the early days. A sulky plow ("a new and unique farm machine") had been patented by Ingalls, Smith & Clark of Independence and was being manufactured quite extensively, and although we have not fulfilled the expectations of those "pioneer boosters" in the way of manufacture, we must have eclipsed their most exaggerated dreams, and even now the science of farming is but in its infancy. In 1865 there were \$94,786.00 worth of agricultural implements in the county. According to the last agricultural report \$996,736 was expended in machinery in this county, while in 1900 the amount was \$646,880, and every year sees some new invention and device to facilitate farm labor.

Nowadays the new-fangled machinery, the corn shredder, cutter and sheller, the manure spreader, the cream separator, the disc, the gasolene engine, attract the fancy and the pocketbook of our up-to-date farmers. Another sign of progression and prosperity is the advanced price of land in this county, as elsewhere in the state. From the time when the Government sold it for \$1.25 per acre to the last legislative assessment of \$62 average value is quite a jump, but even this does not adequately show the value.

Fine improved farms, such improvements as were then needed, with living water sold from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per acre in the early '60s; now those same farms with like improvements would sell for \$75 and \$100 an acre.

In August, 1874, S. T. Spangler of Buffalo Township went to Kentucky and at some of the large stock bought eight very fine cows, paying as high as

\$500 for the one and \$1,695 for the eight head, and the agricultural community owed a debt of appreciation and gratitude to any Buchanan County breeder who exerted constant work and intelligent efforts for the improvement of stock in this vicinity.

This was one of the first herds of blooded, shorthorn cattle imported into the county. This was making a good start for introducing fine stock into the county.

## CHAPTER VIII

### THE EARLY SETTLERS ASSOCIATION

ITS ORGANIZATION—"THE OLD PIONEER"—AN HISTORICAL ADDRESS

The Early Settlers Association, as it was formerly called (later it acquired the name Old Settlers' Picnic), was formally organized in the autumn of 1875. Several of the old residents of Independence and vicinity united in a call for a meeting to be held on the 9th of September.

It was intended to hold the meeting in a grove near town, but the inclemency of the weather prevented, so the meeting was held in the courthouse. There was quite an assembly of old settlers and after they adopted a constitution they proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year. O. H. P. Roszell was elected president; J. S. Woodward, secretary; James Jamison, treasurer; and a vice president from each of sixteen townships. A list of the members was taken at this meeting in accordance with article 9 of the constitution, which read, "Any resident of the county who has resided therein for twenty years may become a member of the society by presenting his name to the secretary for record." One hundred names were recorded at that first meeting. For several years the meetings were held at various places. Often in Dickinson's Grove, on the west side of the river, but eventually the Courthouse Park was selected as the regular meeting place. These reunions were held almost continuously until 1901, when either from lack of interest or because the old settlers depended on the new settlers to keep up the enthusiasm, they were discontinued.

The form of entertainment included a big picnic dinner, which was followed by a literary and musical program and speeches from the old settlers. To Mr. W. A. Jones belongs much of the credit for the success of these meetings. He served as president for many years and the reunions were always held on his birthday, the 24th of August. Mr. Newton Barr succeeded Mr. Jones as president and was one of the earnest workers for the society, lending his aid not only to the arrangements, but to the programs, contributing several poems of his own composition, one of which we insert as a true portrayal of pioneer life, Mr. Barr being a son of one of the earliest pioneers.

#### THE OLD PIONEER

"Another year has rolled around  
Since last we met upon this ground:  
The elderly, the young, the gay,  
Are here to celebrate today.

99769B

- “They like to see the pioneer,  
Because they know his days are near,  
Of troubles all he never feared  
In early days, when here he steered.
- “The old pioneer likes to tell  
How lonely here he used to dwell,  
Because neighbors here were so few,  
When this ‘beautiful land’ was new.
- “He likes to tell of land he broke,  
With oxen of many a yoke; \*  
He likes to tell of game he killed,  
When at that time this land was filled.
- “He likes to tell of flowers wild  
That used to please his little child,  
That used to fear the Indian brave  
That now lies buried in the grave.
- “He likes to tell of work it took,  
With cradle or reaper hook,  
To save the little crops he grew;  
Self-binders then he never knew.
- “He likes to tell of railroads great  
That are everywhere in our state,  
On which he may ride to and fro  
When he does not want to go slow.
- “He likes to tell of good old times,  
When men committed no great crimes;  
Prisons and jails then were not built,  
The people were so free from guilt.
- “The poor he never did forget,  
Their little wants he always met;  
The same trait of him now is true,  
For he always was of ‘true blue.’
- “Old Time is fleeting every day;  
The pioneer is old and gray;  
He soon will be gone to glory,  
So now ends my little story.”

## AN HISTORICAL ADDRESS

O. H. P. Roszell, a prominent early citizen of Buchanan County, delivered the following address at the Centennial celebration of Independence on July 4, 1876:

“Beginning with the advent of the first permanent settlement in the county, we are carried back about one-third of a century; for the pioneer was one William Bennett, who settled where now is the thriving Village of Quasqueton in the early spring of 1842. Mr. Bennett is said to have been the first settler in the County of Delaware also, and had probably chanced upon the site of Quasqueton in some hunting expedition. The beauty of the locality captivated his fancy, and the rapid stream showed that its power could be utilized. He at once laid claim to the place and proceeded to make his claim good by erecting a log cabin on the east bank of the river and occupying it with his family.

“It is almost as difficult for us to conceive the appearance which the county then presented to its first citizen as it would have been for him to paint by aid of fancy that which it now presents to us. Approaching his new home from the east, he had crossed many miles of prairie, stretching away to the north beyond the limits of vision; looking across the stream to the southwest, still the same undulating prairie; and if he passed the river a little to the west he beheld still the same gently swelling sea of treeless green extending towards the northwest to all appearance boundless.

“He might have caught some floating canoe drifted from its mooring far up the stream, and following the timber skirted river through the entire extent of the county, no other traces of art or industry would have met his gaze, save perhaps the lodge poles of some deserted Indian camp. But though he would have found the country a wilderness, it was not a solitude. From every thicket on the river's bank, the dip of the paddles would have startled the deer, and its splash been echoed by the sudden plunge of the otter or beaver, while wild fowls—ducks, geese and the majestic swan, rose at his approach in countless thousands and mingled their screams with the cry of innumerable cranes wheeling their flight far up in the blue ether. The whole country was as if just completed—fresh and new and perfect from the hand of the Creator; an unpeopled paradise. Hardly had Bennett taken possession of his cabin before he was joined by one Evans, and by Ezra Allen, who settled about one and a half miles north of Quasqueton and in April the settlement was increased by the arrival of Frederick Kessler and wife, Rufus B. Clark and family, S. G. and H. T. Sanford, a Mr. Daggett and Simmons and Lambert and Edward Brewer; the latter, who was then unmarried, made his home with Kessler. Clark and Kessler each made claims and built cabins about one and a half miles west of Quasqueton and near together and as soon as possible commenced breaking prairie, so that in June they had ten acres broken which they planted with corn and beans; but though frost did not appear that fall until October 10th, there was not sufficient time for the crop to ripen. They all, men and women, went to work the day after the frost and gathered the crop so as to secure it in the best possible condition for corn and beans were important articles. For provisions during the summer of 1842 it was necessary to go to the Maquoketa a distance of sixty miles. One person was sent with an ox team and brought supplies for the whole community. The land was yet unsurveyed and of course not in market. The Government surveyors were engaged that summer in making a subdivision and were encamped for some time near Kessler's. The sight of these and an occasional squad of cavalry galloping across the prairie and fording the river at the rapids served to remind the settlers that they were not alone in the world.

“During that summer a man named Stiles settled at Quasqueton and to him belongs the honor of keeping the first whiskey shop in the country. He called his place a tavern and grocery. Some addition was made to the settlers aside from emigration, for in May, 1842 was born Charles Kessler, the first white child born in this county. In the autumn of 1842 there arrived Nathaniel Hatch and family and Henry B. Hatch, without family. Nathaniel built himself a house and Henry B. made his home at Kessler's. Mr. Bennett built a log dam across the river and raised the frame of the saw mill that fall. There were several young men in his employ who never became permanent settlers. This same season also one Johnson made his appearance and located on the east side of the river about half way between Quasqueton and Independence. He asserted that he was the notorious ‘Canadian patriot’ and that the young woman who accompanied him as his sole companion was his daughter, Kate, and the veritable ‘queen of the thousand islands.’ His language and conduct excited the suspicion and hatred of the settlers and a party of them seized Johnson, administered a severe whipping and admonition to leave the settlement, which he soon did. This episode was long referred to by the settlers as the ‘Patriot war.’

“The winter of 1842-3 proved a very severe one and the settlers endured many privations. On the 17th of November a terrible snow storm commenced, accompanied with wind which caused immense drifts. Most of the houses having been hastily erected that spring, of logs, were imperfectly chinked and plastered, and it was impossible to keep out the drifting snow. Kessler's was in this condition and his family took refuge at Clark's, which was better protected. On returning after the storm they found their house drifted completely full and buried, even to the chimney, and had to dig out their furniture piece by piece. They dug a regular stairway from the door to the top of the snow; and the same to reach the water in the spring close by, through snow fourteen feet in depth. The storm ended in sleet, which left a hard crust on the surface, which would bear the weight of a man on the surface if not too heavy. It was almost impossible to get about except on foot, and in that way the mail was carried to and from the colony near Ede's Grove in Delaware County by Kessler, he being selected for that service on account of being small and light. Deer were abundant and easily overtaken, as their sharp feet broke through the crust; so venison was plenty. Bee trees had also been found in large numbers in the fall, and there was a plentiful supply of honey. Some families had three or four barrels of that commodity, but honey and venison, though each delicious, were found hardly adequate food for sole and constant use; and grain there was none, nor other food of any kind to be had short of a journey to the colony.

“H. B. Hatch was the first to venture out after corn. He went with two yoke of oxen and on his return was overtaken by a storm of sleet so severe that the freezing rain blinded not only himself, but his oxen. But by walking on the off side of his cattle he managed to shelter himself somewhat, and after stopping many times to remove the ice from his eyes and those of his oxen, he succeeded in reaching home with his load of corn, much to the joy of the settlers, who had been greatly alarmed for his safety. The corn was immediately distributed and when exhausted Mr. Sanford went to the same place and brought another load, which he carefully dealt out, sternly refusing any applicant more than one peek at a time; not from any want of kindness or generosity, but to enforce that



severe economy in its use which was absolutely necessary. For several months during that winter, venison, honey and boiled corn constituted the only food of the settlers. Wolves were numerous and bold and often came to the springs within a few steps from the doors of the settlers, to drink. On the first of April, 1853, the river was still frozen and teams crossed on the ice.

“In the spring of 1843 the land in the south part of the county was put in market, and on the 13th of March of that year the first entry was made by Edwin R. Fulton, the entry being the west half northeast thirty-four, eighty-eight, eight, and eighty, which Bennett had claimed and settled upon. Fulton was never a citizen of this county and was probably some friend of Bennett, whom he procured to make the entry for him. In May, 1843, Malcolm McBane and John Cordell—both with their families—settled in the immediate vicinity of Quasqueton, on the east side of the river. They entered their first land May 2, 1843. Sometime in the summer or fall of 1843 came James Biddinger, S. V. Thompson, and W. W. Hadden; the former settled near, and the two latter at Quasqueton. During the summer of 1843 a flouring mill was erected at Quasqueton by Mr. Stiles, but was probably not completed until 1844, about which time a Mr. Richards settled there and opened the first store. Up to this time the place had been known only as ‘The Rapids of the Wapsipinicon’ and now it had a saw mill and a grist mill, a store, tavern and saloon, and had become quite a village, and was named Trenton, which name it retained until about 1847, when it was regularly laid out into lots and rechristened Quasqueton, which name was euphonized from Quasquetuck, signifying in the tongue of the Indian ‘swift waters.’

“The first settlers had now begun to raise wheat as well as corn, and with a mill in their immediate vicinity where it could be ground, were in little danger of again being compelled to subsist on boiled corn. Fish were abundant in the river, and it is told, and is undoubtedly true, that they were caught of such size that, tied together by the gills and thrown across a horse, the caudal fins touched the ground on each side. It is surmised, however, that the horse was an Indian pony and of not unusual height. The species of fish which attained to such size was the ‘muskalonge’ and some of the same species weighing twenty-four pounds were caught at Independence as late as 1854. During the year 1844 there seems to have been but little additional emigration to the county; but in 1845 quite a number of families arrived, among them one Abbott, James Rundle, and Benoni and Harvey B. Haskins, and I think, David Merrill; these families all settled near Quasqueton. During that year also was made the first entry of land north of the correction line. It was on section 25, 89, 9, a part of what is now known as the county poor farm, and was entered by John Kimmis, December 4, 1845.

“Rufus B. Clark, in his hunting excursions, had early visited, observed and admired the site of Independence. He had no means with which to purchase the land, but he laid claim to the place, and in the spring of 1847 built a log house on the east side of the river at a spot near the present junction of Chatham and Mott streets, and removed his family thereto. After making the claim he visited Janesville, Wisconsin, and induced S. P. Stoughton and Nicholas A. McClure to purchase the land. Stoughton came to Independence the same spring—April, 1847, entered the land, and during that summer built a dam and saw mill and brought also a small stock of goods. With him came Samuel Sherwood, Mervin Duntun and a Doctor Lovejoy. In July, 1847, S. S. McClure, Eli D. Phelps, A. H.

Trask and Thomas W. Close arrived and all settled at Independence. In June of that year three commissioners, appointed by the state legislature for that purpose, visited the county, and on the 15th. of June, located the county seat on section 34, 89, 9, and called it Independence. In 1846 John Boon and Frank Hathaway had settled on the edge of the prairie two miles northeast of Independence, so that the Fourth of July, 1847, saw at Independence quite a little community of settlers and if the celebration here on that day was not as largely attended as this, it was fully as enthusiastic as this can be. The location being made at a date so near to the Fourth of July had probably a great influence for the selection of the name of Independence for the future city. The overflow caused by the erection of the dam produced malaria, and most of the settlers suffered from fever and ague. Mrs. R. B. Clark and Doctor Lovejoy died in the fall of 1847. In June, 1848, the colony was increased by the arrival of Asa Blood, senior and junior, Elijah and Anthony Beardsley, and a Mr. Babbitt. Doctor Brewer removed to Independence also that year, having been elected clerk of the county commissioners the year before, and consequently being required to be at the county seat. John Obenchain had settled in the spring of 1848 two miles north of Independence, on the farm now occupied by C. Dickson. Isaac Hathaway also settled on section 36, 89, 9, about two miles east of Independence; Thomas Barr, six miles north of Independence; Samuel and Orlando Sufficool, William Bunce, Daniel Greeley, and William Greeley, at Greeley's Grove; John Scott, on what is now known as the Smyser farm; Jacob Minton, William Minton, and Gamaliel Walker, on Pine Creek; a Mr. Trogden, on the west side of the river, about five miles above Quasqueton; and some fifteen or twenty others, mostly at or in the vicinity of Quasqueton, among them D. S. Davis, George I. Cummins, James Cummins, Charles Robbins, Benjamin Congdon and others, not forgetting to mention Hamilton Megonigle, who came from the banks of the Juniata, in Pennsylvania, a regular, careless, jovial, free-hearted, open-handed backwoodsman, who was known to everybody and loved to be called 'Old Juny.'

"The tax list for 1847 shows eighty-one names as resident tax payers. Among them are Thomas Barr, Samuel and Orlando Sufficool, William Bunce, I. F. Hathaway, John Boon, Gamaliel Walker, William Biddinger, N. G. Parker, Samuel Caskey, Ami H. Trask, Thomas W. Close, Samuel Sherwood and Edward Brewer. The same tax list shows that there were sixty forty acre tracts of land entered in the county, being a little less than four sections. The valuation of all property, real and personal, was \$21,709, and total tax \$167.40. Of the eighty-one residents seventy-four were voters. The total moneys and credits assessed were \$3,775. There were 249 head of cattle, 417 hogs, sixty-eight horses, forty-two wagons, 642 sheep, and not one mule. Few of the settlers indulged in the luxury of watches, for there seem to have been but six in the whole county. The mills and machinery at Quasqueton had at this time become the property of D. S. Davis, and were valued at \$2000. The saw mill at Independence is put down at \$900. W. W. Hadden paid the highest tax, the enormous sum of \$22.39.

"The first election of which I find any record was in August, 1847. The county was then divided into two election precincts, one called Quasqueton and the other Centre precinct. John Scott, Frederick Kessler and B. D. Springer were elected county commissioners and Edward Brewer, clerk; and it is a conclusive proof of his worth and ability that he continued to hold that office twenty-

three years. On the 4th of October, 1847, the county commissioners held their first meeting at the house of Edward Brewer, in Independence. Their first official act was to divide the county into three commissioners' districts. The first district comprised all the north half of the county. The south half was divided by a line running north and south about 1½ miles west of Quasqueton.

“Three road petitions were presented, and viewers appointed at that session. One from Independence east to county line. One from Independence east to intersect the territorial road from Marion to Fort Atkinson and one from Quasqueton to Independence on the west side of the river. It was ordered also that a surveyor be employed to lay off a town at the county seat. On November 3, 1847 the commissioners met and caused eight blocks of lots on the southeast quarter of southeast quarter section 34, to be laid off as the Village of Independence and the county seat. The land was still Government land and not entered by the county until January, 1849, though it was legally preempted and thus secured to the county in January, 1848. The lots were 10 rods in length by 5 in width, and the price fixed for them was \$5.00 each. In January, 1848, also the three roads first petitioned for were declared public highways.

“Up to that time there had been no regularly laid out roads in the county, except a territorial road from Marion to Fort Atkinson, crossing the river at Quasqueton, and running thence nearly north through the county, passing near where is now the Village of Winthrop. This was known as the Mission road. And another from Marion to the north line of the state laid out in 1846, crossing the river at the same place and passing about two miles east of Independence, at the edge of the timber. The settlers followed such routes as suited their convenience, from house to house and from neighborhood to neighborhood. Indian trails crossed the prairie from stream to stream, leading to fording places, and well worn paths led up and down the river, touching, surely, every bubbling spring. Such trails, which recent settlers supposed to be merely cattle paths, can be pointed out in many places even to this day by the pioneers.

“Though in the spring of 1848 several families came to Independence, the prevalence of fever and ague was so great that it discouraged not only them, but most of those who came earlier. Most of the latter left the place, either in the fall of 1848 or the spring of 1849, so that in the summer of 1849 only four families remained. In July, of 1849, the first entry of land was made in Newton Township by Joseph B. Potter. The first settlement in that township was by Joseph Austin, in the spring of 1847, on section 33. Reuben C. Walton was the next, and built his cabin on the same forty as Austin in 1848. In 1850 William P. Harris, Aaron M. Long, Henry Holman and a Mr. Ogden settled in the same vicinity on Spring Creek, and James McCanna on section 12 on Buffalo Creek. John Cordell entered the first land in Cono Township in 1843, and Leander Keyes and T. K. Burgess settled in that township just below Quasqueton in 1848. No land was entered in Homer Township till 1851, when John S. Williams entered forty acres on section 19. The first actual settler in Jefferson Township was J. B. Stainbrook, in June, 1850, and his daughter, Martha, now Mrs. Masters, and residing in Brandon, was the first white child born in the township. John Rouse and Abel Cox were the next settlers, and arrived in July, 1850, and in September Nicholas Albert, Phillip Zinn and Joseph Rouse. The next year came John Rice, Thomas Frink, Mathew Davis and Hamilton Wood.

“In the fall of 1851 a state road was surveyed from Quasqueton to the county seat of Marshall County. Two of the commissioners were D. S. Davis and John Cordell. The party started from Quasqueton to look out the route, and passed near Brandon, or where Brandon now is. No one, even at Quasqueton, had ever visited Jefferson Township, nor did any one of the party know whether there was a settler there or not. It was known that some persons from that direction had crossed the prairie to the Quasqueton mill, but there was no road, not even a discernible track of any kind. Aided by the compass, the party made its way to Lime Creek, and found nestled in the brush near that stream, the cabins of Joseph and John Rouse, and close by them went into camp the first night out. From Rouse it was learned that there were two or three families a little south, and by strict search and Rouse for a guide, they found their houses the next forenoon.

“No settlement was made in Westburg Township till 1853; nor do I know who was the first settler; but William B. Wilkinson must have been among the first. In 1849 Michael Ginther settled in Sumner Township and, being at a loss to describe the land he wished to enter, he carried the corner stake to the land office at Dubuque, going there on foot for that purpose. The entry was afterward found to be on the wrong section entirely. He had intended to buy the land on which he had settled, and on which is the famous spring yet known as the Ginther Spring, about half way between Independence and Quasqueton, on the west side of the river, and when he found the entry he had made was really one mile west, and out on the prairie, he was completely discouraged, being a poor man, and believing that land so far out would never be of any value. The first settler in Middlefield was P. M. Dunn, who entered his land on section 34, April 24, 1850, followed soon after by Daniel Leatherman and Stillman Berry. Fremont Township remained unsettled until 1853, when Z. P. and S. W. Rich located on Buffalo Creek, near the southeast corner of the township. They were induced to venture so far out from the timber from the fact that at that time the road direct from Independence to Coffin's Grove, Delhi and Dubuque had begun to be considerably traveled, though almost up to that year the only traveled route had been via Quasqueton; but in 1852 the few citizens of Independence and vicinity had turned out voluntarily and built a bridge of split logs across Buffalo Creek, near the correction line, making the route practicable. Robert Sutton settled in Byron, on section 32, as early as 1850, if not in 1849; and Thomas Ozias in 1851. The first settlers in Perry Township were James Minton, Charles Melrose and Ganaliel Walker, in 1849. Martin Depoy and Jacob Slaughter entered land in that township the same year, but did not become settlers until 1850; and in the same year Alexander Stevenson and John and Thomas Cameron settled in the same township, all in the northeast corner, near Littleton. Melrose had made an error in his entry, entering in the north part of township 88, 10, instead of 89, 10, being near the present Village of Jesup, and not supposing land in that locality would ever be valuable, by much effort and by the aid of the then United States Senator G. W. Jones, a special act of Congress was passed vacating his entry and placing it on the section intended, where Mr. Melrose now lives. Of the first settlement in Hazleton Township I have already spoken. William Jewell settled and made the first entry of land in Buffalo Township in 1849 where now lives C. H. Jakway. Abiathar Richardson and

Silas K. Messenger came next in 1850; and Thomas and Rockwell Jewell and A. J. Eddy in 1851. In Madison Township Silas Ross, L. R. Ward and Seymour Whitney settled at nearly the same time in 1853, and were the first comers. They located in the east part of the township near the place now known as Ward's Corners. In Fairbank Township William S. Clark was the first to locate, settling in the south part, just above Littleton, in 1848 or 1849, and was the first settler in that region. He went to California about 1856, but the house he built is yet standing (1876)—Thomas Wilson must have found his way into the timber west of the Little Wapsie very soon after, for I remember finding him and one, McKinstry, settled there in 1850.

“In 1849 S. P. Stoughton and S. S. McClure returned to Independence and with them came the writer of this sketch. There were then in Independence only Doctor Brewer, Thomas W. Close and F. Beardsley and a Mr. Horton, each with their families. Samuel Sherwood, though still reckoned a citizen of Independence, was absent that winter building a mill at Cedar Rapids. There was an unenclosed and no other building on the west bank of the river and on the east side, besides the building occupied by the families named, a vacant blacksmith shop and three vacant dwellings, among them the house built by Rufus B. Clark, who, after the death of his wife, had sold his interest in the place to Stoughton & McClure and removed to the Cedar River in Chickasaw County.

“The families in the north half of the county could almost be counted on one's fingers. W. S. Clark, James Newton, Charles Melrose and Gamaliel Walker were up the river near where Littleton now is. Jacob Minton, Thomas Barr, Joseph Ross and Isaac Hathaway were also among the early settlers.”



## CHAPTER IX

### BUCHANAN COUNTY IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION

#### THE CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS—THE MEN AT THE FRONT—THE WOMEN AT HOME

The record of Buchanan County's soldiers in the Civil war, is one of which to be justly proud and will ever shed glory and honor on the sons and daughters of all of her future generations. With a mingled emotion of pride and sorrow, a deep sense of gratitude and equally as much reverence do we read the splendid records of those brave heroes. And with such a feeling of utter incapability and inexpressible depression, do we attempt to chronicle that tragic tale. How can any historian with cold pen and ink hope to describe the incidents of that awful time? How can he hope to justly honor the courage, patriotism, self-sacrifice, and loyalty that prompted these noble heroes? It is beyond the power of human composition, and utterly beggars his most aspiring eulogy. How can an artist e'en though with a master-hand, paint the horrors of those harrowing scenes. No crimson pigment ever splashed upon a canvas could portray the deep and vivid color of that gushing, ebbing life blood, no color so ashen to faithfully depict the pallor and lifelessness of those fallen heroes, no lines or shadows which can justly portray the intense agony, suffering and horror of that awful tragedy. No color so true that can follow with accurate portrayal the steadfast, loyal, courageous, and victorious line of blue, no pigment adequate to interpret the courage, devotion, despair, and hopelessness of that wavering line of gray. No color imaginable to exactly represent that rolling, blinding, choking smoke of gunpowder, no color so flaming to represent the fires of battle, the flash of powder, the blaze of cannon. Nothing to express the horrible rumble, rattle, roar, crash, and thunder of bursting bomb, rattling hail of shot and shell, and rain of bullets.

Intense patriotism and vivid imagination have inspired the brush of painters to most glorious work, but even that falls far short of depicting the realities of such a scene. And great writers of history, novels and the drama have tried for over fifty years to do justice to that unapproachable subject. Man is utterly incapable of expressing either through the medium of the pen or with the aid of brush or chisel, anything more than a semblance of the realities and actualities of life. Man is a fine imitator and does marvelous things with these finite materials, but the infinite spiritualities, intelligences and incorporeal senses are beyond his limitations. So to know these extreme phases of our national history, one must have lived them.

And what words, e'en though a dictionary were ransacked from cover to cover, what phrases though crowded with expressive meanings, what sentences, though teeming with voluble phraseology can but faintly describe those inexpressible

thoughts and emotions of war. The heart pangs, the sorrow, despair, bitterness, hatred, and brutish instincts to kill and destroy, and, contrasted with those the patriotic fervor, bravery, duty, loyalty, love, pity, honor, and devotion, all embodied in that single, awful word war.

It is not even a hope with us to add any glory or luster to the patriots of '61, but we will try and give them their merited place in history and a just allotment of the prominence which they deserve as the preservers of the Union. Now, after fifty-three years of calm and deliberate retrospection, with all hatred, bitterness and enmity wiped out, and with a feeling of love, charity, and perfect fairness, we can view that terrible struggle with an impartial judgment which was utterly impossible to those writers of that day or even for many generations after. We cannot in this brief history enter into any detailed account of the causes which led up to this horrible climax. They are too many to be recounted and historians differ too greatly to have even yet arrived at any definite conclusions, and our opinions on this subject are not even worthy of consideration or space in this narrative. Suffice it to say that when the first call came for volunteer troops, Buchanan County was not wanting in fervid patriotism and courage and sent her quota to the front.

The echoes and reverberations of that first fatal shot fired upon Fort Sumter by the rebellious South, had scarcely died away until the whole North and West were swept, as with a tidal wave of patriotic enthusiasm and fervor, which quenched all other baser fires of partisan and sectional strife which had been raging for many years and which time and again had threatened to disrupt the Union, and united them in one grand cause. With the admission of each of the several intermediate states, there had been controversy and dissension, the two factions, free and slave states, claiming them, and fends.

In the early history of Iowa we undoubtedly were a pro-slavery state, probably due to the fact that a very large per cent of the population of the state were southerners and on account of their great supremacy in holding office at that time. Striking evidence of this supremacy and domination of men of southern affiliations and antecedents in Iowa's political affairs prior to 1850 and even up to the outbreak of the Civil war, is afforded in the membership rolls of the early legislatures and constitutional conventions.

In her territorial days all the highest offices were occupied by southerners appointed under a democratic administration; in the first Territorial Legislature in 1838, there were twenty southerners, five New Englanders, eight from the middle states and five from Ohio and Indiana, and too those from the middle states and from Ohio and Indiana were of southern extraction. In all the subsequent sessions this predominance continued. In the Senate of the third general assembly, in 1851, the southerners numbered seven, while those from New England were only two. But in 1854 the proportion was rapidly changing and the middle and eastern states were greatly increasing in representation in Iowa, but nevertheless there were in the Senate ten southerners and only four New Englanders, and in the lower house, sixteen from the South and but nine from the Northeast. Likewise in the constitutional conventions that convened in 1844, 1846, and 1857, men hailing from south of Mason and Dixon's line greatly outnumbered the New Englanders. In the first convention, there were twenty-six southerners, eleven Virginians, six North Carolinians, eight Kentuckians, and



one Tennessean; while New England was represented by ten and the middle states by twenty-three, of whom thirteen were from Pennsylvania, eight Ohioans, and Indiana and Illinois each one. In the second convention, there were fifteen from the South, eight from New England, four from the middle states, and five from the "Old" northwest states, and in the convention of 1857, the South had ten, New England six, the middle states eleven, and the northwest states nine representatives—showing a decrease in southern representation, and from this on the ratio of northerners increased and southerners decreased.

Further proof of this fact is the Federal census of 1855, which shows the number of native born New Englanders in Iowa was only 5,535; pioneers from the middle states aggregated 24,516, and the total number born in the southern states amounted to 30,954. From the states of the old northwest territory we received 59,098, and the native born Iowans numbered 50,380. There has been so much discussion about the early pioneers and the influences that predominated and moulded our state government institutions and our attitude toward slavery and the South previous to the rebellion, that we considered these statistics as very pertinent in explaining what seems to some a shocking revelation when they find Iowa was so decidedly sympathetic to the South. The New Englanders were to a man ardent abolitionists and the almost universal belief that New Englanders were greatly in preponderance here, and exerted the greatest influence, is responsible for the opinion that we were a strong and anti-slavery state.

The striking fact of this census is that the inhabitants who claimed New England as their birthplace did not number four to the hundred of the entire population, while the southerners numbered nearly six times as many. There were more native born Virginians alone than from all the New England states put together, also the number from Kentucky outnumbered the New Englanders. In the enumerations of 1856 and 1860, the New Englanders show some increase, but up until 1860 the southerners predominated three to one, especially in the southern half of the state. In the early political history party affiliations were not strong; former surroundings and inherited prejudices and influences controlled the vote. But many southerners and democrats were anti-slavery and united their efforts with the one common enemy.

In 1846, when the people of the East first received the report that the whigs had captured the first general assembly under our new state government, even though by a scarce majority, they experienced a great surprise, because previously we had been counted an overwhelmingly democratic pro-slavery state. Horace Greeley, in the New York Tribune of March 29, 1854, wrote: "What gain had freedom from the admission of Iowa into the Union? Are Alabama and Mississippi more devoted to the despotic ideas of American pan-slavism?" And was not his opinion justified when Senator Dodge boldly declared in Congress that "Iowa was the only free state which never for a moment gave way to the Wilmot Proviso," and further boasted, "My colleague voted for every one of the compromise measures, including the fugitive slave law, the late Senator Sturgeon, of Pennsylvania, and ourselves, being the only three senators from the entire non-slave-holding section of the Union who voted for it." He said he rejoiced that Iowa had never endorsed the Wilmot Proviso, which sought to exclude slavery from the territories. Iowa was the only northern state which refused to instruct its members of Congress to support the proviso. Augustus

C. Dodge was senator from 1848 to 1855, and George W. Jones senator from 1848 to 1859. He was an intimate and firm friend of Jefferson Davis and this fact probably largely influenced his and possibly his colleague's political views and conduct, and which eventually caused the imprisonment of General Jones on the charge of treasonable conduct during the Civil war. And it was not until James W. Grimes was elected governor, in 1854, that Iowa showed any manifestation of becoming an anti-slave state, which signified a complete revolution in the political control of the state and attracted the attention of the nation. Prior to that date, Iowa was regarded with but little interest by the people of the northern and eastern states, being considered a southern stronghold and grouped with Illinois and Indiana in the alignment of political parties in the contest over the extension of slavery.

Von Holst, the eminent Dutch historian, in his Constitutional History of the United States, said, "Iowa was a veritable hot-bed of dough-faces," but in 1854 a change took place, the breaking of the whig party (many of its members having united with the "Know Nothings," and that party into two hostile factions—the "Silver Greys"—who were willing to let slavery alone and the "Seward Whigs," who were opposed to slavery), and likewise the split in the democratic party which was divided on the slavery issue into the "Hunkers," who favored slavery and the "Free Soilers," who were anti-slavery—and still another, an anti-slavery party which nominated a full ticket for state officers that year, but were induced to withdraw them and support the whig candidates, all eventually uniting into one, an anti-slavery party, which had as its chief exponent and strongest advocate, James W. Grimes, who was nominated for governor by the whigs and elected by a majority of 2,123 over Curtis Bates. Grimes received 23,325 votes and Bates 21,202.

This election was the first victory and marked the ascendancy of the anti-slavery movement in Iowa and was the beginning of a union of all who opposed the extension of slavery and the forerunner of the coming republican party. But that election proved, too, that we were not yet united in our views, for although the whigs elected a governor and auditor, the democrats had elected the secretary of state, treasurer, attorney general and superintendent of public instruction. In the general assembly of that year, in the Senate the democrats had sixteen members, the whigs and free soil, fifteen. In the House they stood, whig and free soil, forty, democrats, thirty, so the democrats organized and controlled the Senate and the whigs the House. This assembly, after numerous votes, elected James Harlan, free soil whig, United States senator to succeed Augustus Dodge. It was pronounced illegal by the Senate and he was reelected in 1857. The assembly of 1855 also elected George G. Wright, whig, for chief justice, and William G. Woodward, whig, for associate justice; also Norman W. Isbell as associate justice. James Harlan was the most radical anti-slavery adherent we have ever had in Congress and in fact, until his election and that of James Thorington as representative, no voice had ever been raised in protest against the extension of slavery, from any Iowa senator or representative. The territory and state had been controlled by the democrats, and its vote in Congress had with one exception (that was Daniel F. Miller, whig member of Congress in 1849-51) been uniformly against the anti-slavery or free soil movement which was rapidly growing in Iowa and all the northern states. Governor Grimes re-

marked when Harlan was elected, "Our southern friends have regarded Iowa their northern stronghold. I thank God it is conquered." In 1855 was the last contest between the democrats and whigs in Iowa—at this election the whigs were victorious.

Before the next election, the whig party had been absorbed by the new republican party. In 1856, our State Legislature passed joint resolutions strongly opposing the extension of slavery and these resolutions were sent to the Iowa members of Congress. No more democrats were elected to Congress from Iowa until after slavery had ceased to exist and although the democratic party here never opposed the extension of slavery, thousands of its members were strongly against it and left the ranks, uniting with the free soil movement and finally the republican party. With such men as Grimes for governor, Harlan as senator and Thorington as representative, the anti-slavery movement had strong backing. The thing that rankled and inflamed the northern people and united and solidified their interest into one cause was, not so much the opposition to slavery in the South as to its enforced extension in the North; it was encroaching on all new territory, and forced the situation to its ultimate climax. In all probability if the South had been content to let the new states and territories settle the slavery question for themselves, the climax would not have been precipitated for several years. Lincoln further said, "Slavery will not cease until a crisis shall have been reached and passed."

No people can long remain passive and noncommittal when subjected to such outrages as were perpetrated upon these new western states and territories. They must either submit and themselves become slaves or revolt and strike for liberty and freedom. As Lincoln said, "No nation can long endure half free and half slave." "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved, I do not expect the house to fall, but I do expect it will cease to be divided."

Iowa had long been impassive and insensible to the terrible condition of affairs concerning slavery in the South, but when she saw her sister states being coerced and despoiled, she aroused from her lethargy and at the first shot fired in defiance to the Union, threatening its dissolution, Iowa rose unanimously, and consecrated herself to its cause. Henceforth, there was no wavering allegiance to the Government, no divided sentiment for the Republic but only the consecrated love and devotion and sacrifice of all that life holds dear to that one compelling and concentrated issue, "the preserving of the Union." The proud boast of the early settlers that Iowa was second to no state in the Union in patriotism and loyalty to the old flag, undoubtedly is true and seems to be justified in the records and public documents on file pertaining to the Civil war, but nevertheless the foregoing statistics show another phase of that question.

We have given this review of early conditions in the state for the purpose of correcting any false impression among future generations, that our state was always a veritable cradle of patriotism and loyalty to the Union, a state of the highest ideals and sentiments, people who were foremost in advocating justice and freedom. We Iowans have, by the processes of education, environment, and location developed all those finer attributes, but it has taken years to do it. We should be reminded of these grosser beginnings so that we shall not become too

self-righteous and arrogant. "Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet, Lest we forget, Lest we forget."

We should be most lenient and magnanimous to those whom we can now safely declare were in the wrong and misguided in their judgment of right and wrong. They pursued their cause and their ideas of justice and principle just as valiantly as did the northerners; were just as conscientious, honest, loyal, self-sacrificing, and brave as any hero who ever fought, bled, and died for principle, and today we recognize these noble traits and honor them for their unwavering faithfulness to duty.

The conditions in Buchanan County just preceding the war were about as they were every place through the northern half of Iowa. Of course there were some southern sympathizers (Copperheads, as they were called) but the great majority were loyal Unionists and Abolitionists and responded with alacrity to the first call for enlistments. To briefly summarize those last and culminating events which led up to President Lincoln's call for troops: On the 12th of April, 1861, a cannonade from Fort Moultrie, and the batteries erected and controlled by the Confederates in Charleston Harbor, was begun upon Fort Sumter, that being a Federal stronghold, and under the command of Major Robert Anderson. The cannonading continued for two days and finally on Sunday, the 14th, the fort was surrendered. There was no longer room to doubt the intentions of the South. She was in open rebellion, and South Carolina was the first state to secede from the Union. The United States Government proceeded to act at once and President Lincoln under authority of the law of 1795 giving the President power to call out the militia in case of insurrection immediately issued a call for 75,000 men for three months' service. That call secured the direct promise of 92,000 men from the different states, and six days after it was made Massachusetts troops were in Washington.

When Governor Kirkwood, our War Governor, received the telegram announcing the "first call" for a regiment, he immediately hastened to Davenport, where the telegraph office was (that being the only place where it was in operation), in order to get the dispatches of the President and act upon them without loss of time. He was sick and had left Des Moines, the new Capital, which was then without any railroad communication and gone to his farm near Iowa City to recuperate. Called from a sick bed, as he stated to an enthusiastic meeting in Davenport, he employed the most energetic means for the raising and equipment of troops. "Why, the President wants a whole regiment, Mr. Vandever. Can I raise so many?" said the astonished governor to the gentleman who brought the telegram. That regiment was raised before their equipment could be prepared and ten regiments were soon offered the Government. "Ten days ago," wrote the governor to President Lincoln, "there were two parties in Iowa, now there is only one, and that one for the Constitution and the Union, unconditionally." Money must be had to reach these emergencies and the next morning after Sumter was fired upon, the Graves Brothers of Dubuque said, "Draw on us for \$30,000." W. T. Smith, a leading democrat of Oskaloosa, Ezekial Clark, Governor Kirkwood himself and many other patriotic citizens practically turned their pockets wrong side out for the benefit of the state. The young Dutch colony at Amana sent the governor \$1,000. Cloth for uniforms was bought and the women, as loyal and true hearted as the men, made them up in short

order. The women of Burlington, headed by Mrs. Grimes, wife of the former governor, made three hundred soldiers' coats and haversacks in six days.

This out-flow of men and money was all the more remarkable since the state was only just beginning to recover from the panic of 1857 and 1858, which had so crippled both private and public interests, but nevertheless she did her full duty. Soldiers were drafted in certain sections but this was owing to an error in our military credits. The real seriousness and extent of the war was not even remotely realized until the fearful disaster at Bull Run on July 9th, and a few days later Congress authorized the enlistment of 500,000 men, half a million heroes called from the fields, the workshops, stores, and offices, from every avenue and walk of life to the battlefield, the hospital and the soldier's grave. Not a soldier from Iowa was at Bull Run, but this disastrous defeat of the Federal troops just incited and urged them to wilder enthusiasm and more determined resolve. The effect of these events was electrical and patriotism was kindled into raging flame in an instant. The different papers in the county gave utterance to the most vehement and patriotic sentiments, such as Mr. Rich, editor of the Buchanan County Guardian, gave voice to, in an editorial in the number following the announcement of the fall of Fort Sumter. Those fervid sentiments, written at a time of intense and burning patriotic ardor, give a vivid impression of that true and noble heroism which animated the loyal people of the North to support their country, and espouse the cause of Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, and are so eloquent and so prophetic that we consider it pertinent with this topic to print them. They were the universal sentiments of the people without respect to party; democrats and republicans vied with each other in expressions of loyalty and devotion to the Government and were unanimous in their imprecations against the traitors who had plunged the country into a civil war.

Such fine and lofty expressions serve as an incentive to future generations to valiantly guard and protect that flag which was first purchased at so great a cost and again redeemed from insult and stain with such awful sacrifice. Whenever the call to duty has come, the spirit of patriotism has not been wanting but has prompted and sustained our brave soldiers to noble and heroic deeds.

At the outbreak, the citizens not only of Independence, but of all portions of the county, arose to the occasion, earnest, loyal, patriotic and united. The first manifestation of any real organized effort was an impromptu gathering at the courthouse on Saturday evening, April 20th, and was pervaded with such unanimity and concord of opinion that it must perforce culminate in some concentrated and effective service.

Party spirit was completely superseded with loftier motives. In order to obtain a fuller expression of feeling and definiteness of action a meeting was called for the following Monday evening and at the time appointed, with nothing but a verbal notice, the courthouse was again crowded with a calm, earnest, determined body of citizens, many ladies being present. Alfred Ingalls, Esq., was elected to the chair and Messrs. Rich, editor of the Guardian, and Warren Barnhart, editor of the Civilian, were appointed secretaries.

On motion of Mr. Charles Lathrop a committee of five consisting of the following gentlemen, C. E. Lathrop, W. S. Marshall, Edward Brewer, D. T. Randall, and Lyman Hathaway, all men of some prominence in the affairs of Inde-

pendence, was appointed to prepare resolutions. When the committee had retired to prepare the resolutions, Messrs. J. M. Hord and D. S. Lee were called upon and made strong earnest Union speeches, urging the claims of the Government upon all loyal citizens, and the necessity of punishing treason by the overthrow of the traitors.

The following resolutions were reported and unanimously adopted: "Whereas, The fact has been announced by proclamation of the President of the United States, that rebellion exists in a portion of our country, and that the flag of our Union has been fired upon by the constituted authorities of the so-called Southern Confederacy; and

Whereas, The President has called upon the loyal states for troops to put down said rebellion and assert the supremacy of the laws, therefore

Resolved, That we, the citizens of Independence, without respect to party distinction, will rally as one man to the support of our rightfully constituted Government, and pledge ourselves to respond to any call that may be made upon us, either for men or money, to the full extent of our ability.

Resolved, That we regard all who refuse to stand by the Government in the present crisis as unworthy of the name of American citizens, and as enemies of the liberties of mankind.

Resolved, That, come what may, we will never give up that noble sentiment of the patriot Jackson: "The American Union—it must and shall be preserved."

Resolved, That we approve of the policy of the national administration in the present crisis, believing that the President has acted toward the southern rebels in a just, magnanimous and conciliatory manner, and has afforded, by his conduct, no pretext for their recent warlike preparation and action; and we will stand by our President while he continues to act in the strict lines of his constitutional duty."

This was in fact a most sacred pledge to support the Union and fairly equivalent to an actual enrollment, and undoubtedly these calm, resolute, earnest men considered it as such, when they took upon themselves so serious an obligation. This was an occasion for deep and serious thought, a time when the brain and heart were wrenched and torn with feelings: eloquent speeches fraught with intensely patriotic sentiments, glowing tributes, and fervid devotion to the Government and the maintenance of its authority followed the adoption of the resolutions from Messrs. W. G. Donnan, W. S. Marshall, Jed Lake, W. A. Jones, E. J. Pratt, D. T. Randall, Horatio Bryant, Sampson and Abbott. A Mr. Henry of St. Louis, who was called upon at the suggestion of a friend, received most hearty applause when he said that "he was with the people of Iowa for the Union;" but when he proceeded to say that "he and the Union men of the border states would stand as a wall between the contending forces, saying to the Government you shall not cross our territory to attack the South, and to the South, you shall not cross our boundaries to attack the North," his prestige was gone. He had questioned the prerogatives and indefeasible rights and privileges of governments to command their subjects and chastise them into obedience. His loyalty and sincerity to the Union was doubted and after some sharp catechising, which showed the speaker the displeasure of the audience with his remarks and that he could not in any way regain their favor, he subsided, although the hollowness of such Union sentiments had only a few days before been exem-

plified in the killing of Federal soldiers in Baltimore on their way to defend the Capital. There was only one other discordant utterance from a citizen to mar the complete harmony and unity of this patriotic gathering, which, in its manly outspoken loyalty, conferred a lasting honor on Buchanan County. One of the speakers called upon took a narrow, partisan view of the situation, and spoke of the call of the President for troops as an appeal from the republicans for assistance, from the opposing political party; and though he favored such assistance it was only upon the grounds that by that means alone could they gain political ascendancy in the future. It is perhaps needless to say that these sentiments had few adherents at that meeting. Some of the most prominent citizens in the county were southern sympathizers and at least in the beginning of the great struggle thought it but a political ruse and that they were being duped, but time has proved that they were unequivocally mistaken, and undoubtedly realized that fact. The editor of the Guardian expressed a very charitable opinion of this affair, when he said "that the speaker had done himself great injustice, his patriotism being infinitely deeper and broader than his party feeling," and this kindness of the editor prompted the former Buchanan County Historian to the added charity of withholding his name from the record of those proceedings and from those who valiantly supported the Union; so we are compelled to do likewise, although our opinions both of history and that man's expressions are different than those of the previous writer.

We maintain that history is history and that it should be chronicled just as it happened without distinction of social standing, party or creed, and without prejudice or partiality to the individual concerned, and furthermore we believe every man is entitled to his own opinions and that he alone is entirely responsible for those opinions, be they right or wrong. On the principles of freedom of speech and thought was our Government founded. But it is not astonishing that during that heated period men ran the risk of all sorts of abuse and even life itself, to express opinions differing from the majority of people in the community where they lived, and for years afterwards both speech and thought had to be jealously guarded. Even here in Independence there were many fiery altercations and a few more serious troubles that eventually led to real pugilistic encounters.

One citizen of Buchanan County, who was a teacher in Benton County and a southern sympathizer, and strongly opposed to the northern measures, whose name we withhold because he was a grandfather of the authoress, wrote in a copy book for a pupil "Jefferson Davis was a loyal citizen of the United States." The boy for whom the copy was made changed the verb from the past to the present tense and by so doing changed the whole complexion of the sentence. This copy was passed around to all the directors and patrons of the school and caused intense and bitter feeling. The school master was forced to resign and a lynching party was organized to hang him. For two weeks both night and day his good neighbors guarded his home, and finally the agitation wore itself out. The school directors refused to pay him his salary, although he had a contract to teach, so he sued them and the court sustained his case. Now, we personally know this man to have been a most ardent patriot and an enthusiastic supporter of the government, but his views upon the war questions differed greatly from the majority of the northerners' opinion. He vehemently condemned slavery

but he believed in the sovereignty of the states and believed in pursuing a milder, more legislative and persuasive course, and that eventually the South would be convinced of her error and correct those evils without interference, and bloodshed. And possibly this would have transpired if the North had been content to submit to every insult and treasonable act, for there is no denying the fact that the South forced the situation and compelled the North to bear arms in self defense. And, too, we cannot help but admit that other countries, in fact all the European countries had and have abolished human traffic by law. Our country has the awful distinction of being the only country in the entire world which had to settle the question in armed conflict and with such horrible sacrifice of life and property. But to return to that first organized meeting which was the spark that started the consuming fires of patriotism which raged here and prompted such an outpouring of actual service and resulted in so many enlistments. Mr. Sampson, pastor of the Methodist Church, declared his readiness to march in the ranks if necessary, thus showing that he would not urge others to a duty from which he considered himself excused.

At a late hour the meeting adjourned, after adopting a motion made by W. G. Donnan, that committees be appointed to organize companies and raise the funds that would be required for their outfit. This meeting fully developed the fact of the unity of sentiment which existed in this community and the unflinching loyalty of the Government, and it likewise demonstrated that, should occasion demand, one company of volunteers for active service and another as a contingent could be raised on short notice. A meeting for those desirous of forming a company whose services should be offered at once to the governor, was appointed for the Wednesday evening following and the Citizens' Meeting adjourned subject to the call of Mr. Ingalls, chairman.

Some incidents showing clearly the state of the public mind, as expressed at the first telegraphic dispatch announcing the cannonading upon Fort Sumter, was the raising of a flag, belonging to the citizens of Independence, upon the flag-staff, near the courthouse and as its beautiful folds were unfurled to the breeze the wildest cheers went up again and again from the assembled crowd. Democrats and republicans alike joining heartily in the vociferous outburst of patriotism. Flags were also raised and kept flying from the offices of the county papers, the Guardian and Civilian, nor did one excel the other in the ardor of its utterances supporting the Government and the war measures. This sounds rather tame, but in so many places the sentiments were so divided and so bitter. To be sure in the Civilian we read articles not in concord with this general feeling, articles full of vitriolic remarks, and censure of the "blood thirsty" abolitionists, and deerying the view taken by the editor of the Guardian and his "No Compromise Editorials," accusing the republicans of "preferring party to peace," of having brought the Government to the brink of ruin, "Nothing will satisfy them but blood, blood, blood." "Great God when will reason again resume control of the American people—would to God we might hear from every portion of this once glorious and happy land, the voice of peace, peace, and then and not until then, can we expect to be united, prosperous and happy. If we had less 'No Compromise' articles and 'sensational dispatches,' and in their stead sober, candid editorials, setting the truth before the people, we would in a short time, hear voices throughout the land crying for peace; and such I



believe to be the duty of every lover of this Union." These were not written by the editor, however, but by a subscriber. Another incident occurred on Saturday, April 14th, while a case was on trial in the District Court, and while the jury was attentively listening to the examination of witnesses, someone brought into the courtroom a Dubuque paper containing the first account of the fight at Charleston. The news flashed around the courtroom instantaneously, and created great excitement. Lawyers, witnesses, and jurymen caught the infection, and it was found impossible to proceed with the case until they all had heard and discussed the news. The jury would give no attention until the war news was read to them, which was at length done by order of the court, a suspension of proceedings having been ordered for that purpose. "The case of South Carolina and Secession, thus unceremoniously brought before the jury was of a character to require no cross-examination of witnesses, no special pleading of lawyers." The crime was premeditated, self-evident, and their rendering of a judgment was quick and impartial and the decision has never been and never will be reversed—or the case appealed. Patriotic enthusiasm as evinced in those public demonstrations and meetings was by no means confined to the county seat, but at various points in the county, public meetings were held, at Quasqueton, Littleton, and other places.

Volunteers were daily offering their services and everywhere offers of money for the support of the families of volunteers were being made. An enthusiastic meeting of the citizens of Littleton and vicinity was held early in May, with the avowed object of organizing a military company whose services should be offered to the governor as soon as the organization was complete. Many ladies were present and were as enthusiastic as the men. The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Lewis, Leavitt, and Hord of Independence; and by Reed, Muncy, Sanford, and others of Littleton. Thayer's Band, from Barelay was present, and when the fife and drum played those stirring National airs, the patriotism of the people was raised to fever heat. History makes mention of the fact that no town, village, or hamlet, was destitute of a flag (flags were not as common then as now) and at the county seat whenever news of especial concern was received, printing offices and stores hung out flags, in such profusion as to suggest the thought that, unconsciously, the loyal heart of the North was striving by a double meed of allegiance to atone for the indignities offered elsewhere to this sacred emblem of the Nation's power and majesty.

The first official word of instruction to companies was received in a letter from Hon. William Vandever to Mr. Rich, in which he told what the requirements would be, what officers, uniforms, arms, and other equipment was needed. They were advised to furnish themselves with some simple style of uniform such as a gray tweed flannel (blouse and pants) to answer until the Legislature met at its extra session which met May 15, 1861, when it would undoubtedly make some provision for arming and equipping several regiments. The state would distribute arms as fast as they were received from the Federal Government. He said it was the desire of the governor to have such companies formed all over the state, fully equipped and prepared for any emergency, but not to interfere with their business pursuits. He further wrote, "I trust that in the next regiment required from the state, some of your northern companies will be preferred over those from the river towns." And as is usual in times of war

the men were not only willing but anxious to go to the front and "lick the saucy rebel traitors to a finish in one good round, etc.," were their boasts, as likewise, did the rebels boast of what they would do to the pusillanimous Yanks. Little did they imagine what the outcome would be, and what awful carnage and destruction would be endured before the end.

Lincoln's first call had been for "ninety day" enlistments, believing that sufficient time to establish peace and order and reestablish Government in the South. On April 16th he had issued a proclamation, giving the rebels twenty days in which to disperse; this time expired on Sunday, May 5th, and from that date it was the firm resolve of the Administration, and in fact the determined sentiment of the entire North to crush out this infamous Rebellion. Nothing should intervene and no armistice, compromise, or half-way measures should divert them from their purpose. An editorial written by Mr. Rich appeared in the *Guardian* of May 7, 1861—which so well sums up the situation and expresses the sentiments of this community that we consider it an important paper to preserve.

"On Sunday night last, May 5th, the twenty days which Mr. Lincoln, in his proclamation, gave the rebels to disperse, expired, and from now onward nothing will intervene to prevent the Government from pushing its movements actively against the traitors." F. W. Seward, Assistant Secretary of State, telegraphed to New York, in refutation of the report that an armistice had been asked by the Government, that that sort of thing ended on the 4th of March; and we may therefore conclude, both from that and Mr. Lincoln's reply to the Maryland deputations, that the administration is fully resolved to give action to the determined sentiment of the whole North, that this infamous Rebellion must not be compromised with, but must be crushed out—crushed out so effectively that the men and the system that for long years have kept the country in foment, shall never thereafter be able to create a disturbance. The country demands no half-way measures. It demands of the Government no longer conservative or defensive efforts, but calls for a forward, aggressive movement. It demands not only that Washington may be made secure, but that every fort, arsenal, and Government building in the slave states, stolen by the secessionists shall be retaken. \* \* \* Demands that no thought of reconstruction, no proposition of division shall be entertained, but that the Union and the Constitution, as they have existed, shall be preserved intact. Since they have been forced to fight, they demand that the question in issue shall be settled forever—that slavery shall no longer have the power to convulse the country as it has done heretofore.

This firm determined stand of the people and the administration, has had its clear effect in the border states. Maryland, for a time overcome by a bold mob, has received a strengthening of backbone by this evidence of the power and will of the great North. Again the American flag floats throughout all her borders. Again her people in mass meetings declare their fidelity to the Union, and her Legislature is forced to frown down the idea of secession. The cry of northern volunteers, "Through Baltimore, or over it," has made that city almost as patriotic as could be desired. Western Virginia stands boldly up, under the inspiration of northern firmness, and declares that she will battle to the death with the secessionists of the eastern part of the state. Missouri, also, as

well as Kentucky and Tennessee, dare not declare against the old flag, in view of the glorious uprising of the free states, and the stern determination to drive treason from the land. Treacherous as they were and are still willing to prove with secession triumphant; with a northern army on their borders, and the free states united and determined, they have found it inexpedient to secede, and will probably so continue to find it. Virginia that demanded so much consideration, that claimed so much power, has gone over to the seceders, and this movement has had no other effect than to show how weak she really was, with all her vamping. Her going has detracted nothing from the strength of the Government, and added nothing to the seceders. Her power is now forever broken, because all see that the influence she claimed in the Confederacy she could not have possessed. Her pretensions were a mere bubble, and she herself has pricked it.

We hope, then, that the Government will declare, as the people have done, a firm determination to permit no division of our territory, no disruption of the Union.

With that declaration as the basis of its campaign the free states will make short work of this Rebellion.

These conditions occasioned Lincoln's second call, on May 14th, for 83,000 additional troops and this news was received here as everywhere with undisguised satisfaction. The fact that no requisition was to be made upon the states for the 40,000 volunteers, for three years' service, was commented upon as being favorable to Iowa troops; all regiments offering being accepted until the full number was enrolled. The announcement of the completion of the first Independence Company appeared in the same issue as Lincoln's second call for troops. This company had been formed with the full determination to do active service if possible, a solemn oath being administered to each new recruit. Quasqueton, too, had reported on the same date, a "home guard" of nearly one hundred members, and had commenced drilling in "dead earnest," with the ultimate aim to do their sacred duty to their country and to its cause. Another company known as the "Buchanan County Light Infantry" was formed a short time after the "Independence Guards," but were not mustered into service until some weeks later.

On June 1, 1861, the Independence Guards having completed their roll, held a meeting for the purpose of electing officers which resulted as follows: D. S. Lee, captain; G. C. Jordan, first lieutenant; W. S. Marshall, second lieutenant; C. L. White, first sergeant; R. S. Marlin, second sergeant; T. Blondin, third sergeant; J. D. C. Garrison, fourth sergeant; C. J. Reed, first corporal; E. A. Woodruff, second corporal; J. H. McWilliams, third corporal; O. J. M. Fuller, fourth corporal. The company being fully organized, Captain Lee and Mr. Rich went to Iowa City to tender their services to the governor with the expectation and desire of being accepted and sent immediately into active service. Meanwhile squad drills were held every evening in Morse's Hall and every morning between 4 and 5 o'clock on the old race grounds on the west side of the river, showing that they meant business and not just talk and that they realized the necessity for preparation, that they might do better service for their country, and gallantly defend their noble cause.

Just as these strenuous preparations of war were going on, news flashed through the entire country that Stephen A. Douglas was dead, which caused a general feeling of sorrow and depression to pervade the hearts of those already weighted with anxiety and gloom. A call was made for a meeting at the court house, June 5th, at 7 o'clock P. M., that the citizens might meet and show their respect for the dead. The court house was filled to overflowing and the greatest solemnity and sincerest sorrow prevailed. Every one, without regard to party affiliation, deeply mourned this honest man, true patriot, and great statesman. J. S. Woodward presided and L. W. Hart acted as secretary. The object of the meeting was stated by the chairman and a committee on resolutions reported through their chairman, O. H. P. Roszell.

After the reading of these resolutions, appropriate and eloquent remarks were made by O. H. P. Roszell, Lorenzo Moore, Jed Lake, E. P. Baker, W. S. Marshall, W. G. Donnan, Mr. Pratt, Rev. Robert Fulton, J. H. Hord, and L. W. Hart. The resolutions were then unanimously adopted. The hall was ornamented with numerous flags draped in mourning and also a large portrait of the deceased. A motion to have the proceedings of the meeting and resolutions printed in the county papers and send a copy to the family of the deceased, carried. The meeting then closed with singing by the children and prayer by Rev. Sampson. Soon thereafter subscriptions were taken for the purpose of erecting a monument to this noble hero. C. F. Leavitt was the appointed agent and our generous patriotic citizens as usual subscribed liberally.

Though assured of their acceptance, the "Guards" were not assigned to a regiment until the last week in June, when Governor Kirkwood wrote to Captain Lee as follows:

"Executive Office, Iowa City,  
"June 25, 1861.

"Captain Lee, Independence Guards.

"Dear Sir: Your company is assigned to the Fifth Regiment Iowa Volunteers, and under the recent call of the war department will be sent to rendezvous at Burlington as soon as arrangements can be perfected—perhaps next week. Fill up your ranks to not less than eighty-four, not more than 101 men. If you can avoid it, do not go into quarters at home, as I have no money, and shall have none till the state bonds are sold.

"If you cannot possibly avoid going into quarters, do so, but not otherwise.

"As soon as matters are arranged, I will send you orders to march to Burlington.

"I enclose printed circular, and call your special attention to that part relating to clothing, and hope you may be able to conform to the suggestions therein contained.

"Please answer immediately.

"Very respectfully,  
"Samuel J. Kirkwood."

The following extract from a circular enclosed with the letter giving suggestions in regard to the outfit of volunteers is very interesting, in view of the great changes in military requirements, and the rank extravagance of our armies of today in uniforms, arms, and equipment.

“It is desirable that, in case you be called into active service, you have a change of clothing. I therefore suggest that your men procure for themselves, with the aid of your neighbors, the following articles for each man: A gray or black felt hat—gray is the best; two good gray flannel shirts; one pair stout gray satinet or cloth pants, lined, with black stripe up the seam; two pair socks, and one pair stout, well made brogans or laced boots. These articles will answer, with a good blanket, which will be furnished by the state, when you may be called out, until a uniform can be furnished by the state, and will continue to answer for a fatigue dress, or a change in case of being caught in the rain—and thus conduce to health. The state cannot furnish these things, but I hope your neighbors will aid you in procuring them. In case you shall not be called out, they can be worn as ordinary dress, and thus no loss will be sustained by the men.”

As a consequence of these suggestions, a public meeting was called inviting all the people of the county to meet at the court house in Independence on Tuesday evening, July 2nd, to take steps to provide the necessary means for these purposes. This call was signed by sixteen of the prominent citizens.

Both the Guardian and the Civilian had a generous tribute to the soldier boys and spoke in regard to their claims upon those who were to remain at home. They also said, with the utmost positiveness, that this company would be the only one to go from this county and used that as an argument for enlistment for all who wished to enter the service of the Government; that later enlistments would compel citizens of Buchanan to enter companies in other localities.

On the 2nd of July, Captain Lee received notice from Colonel Worthington of the “Iowa 5th” that the “Guards” would probably receive orders to move to the rendezvous at Burlington on the following Monday, but owing to lack of transportation facilities they could not leave until Friday morning. Immediately upon receipt of this communication preparations began to be made in earnest and everybody seemed anxious to assist. The town became seething with life and action; the fife and drum, the sewing machine and needle were constantly in use.

As a result of the public meeting, held in response to the call, and of subscriptions made subsequent to the meeting, \$400 had been raised and the merchants and others contributed quantities of materials which were to be made into uniforms. Such a stupendous task seemed formidable enough, considering there was only one week in which to do the work, but as in every great emergency, the women have nobly risen to the occasion and lended their comfort and support, so now the Buchanan County women answered this call, and to them really belongs the honor of being called into active service first. History records that “a full company, fully equipped, reported at the rendezvous at the first call of their country.”

On Saturday, the second day, fully one hundred and twenty-five women were in attendance and all day Sunday, they continued the good work of mercy and necessity, “and kept it up with zeal and enthusiasm which never flagged until the seventh day when the work was finished and the entire company had been provided with uniforms, an aggregate of nearly three hundred garments.” In addition each soldier had received from these women, a needle case, containing

a pair of scissors and all the other necessities, needles, pins, buttons, and thread. As that was their last evening at home, a social meeting was called to afford the citizens an opportunity to bid the soldiers "God speed and Farewell." Mr. Leavitt presided at this Farewell meeting and words of hope and encouragement were spoken which doubtless cheered the hearts of those brave men in many a trying hour and inspired them to acts of heroism. Captain Lee, when called upon to speak, acknowledged the great obligation both he and his men were under for the many kindnesses and services received from the people of Independence and the county at large.

The departure of this first company, "The Independence Guards," on the following morning, Friday, July 12th, was an event which, though intensely inspiring, verged on being more like a funeral cortege. In the morning, at 9 o'clock, the Guards assembled in front of the Montour House (where the Commercial Bank now stands) and were each presented with a Testament, by the Buchanan County Bible Association, after which Reverend Mr. Boggs, minister of the First Presbyterian Church, gave the presentation address. Reverend Mr. Fulton followed with a stirring speech and Reverend Sampson closed with an excellent prayer. The Guards were then dismissed to bid farewell to their friends and reassembled at the first tap of the drum. The town was crowded with people from the surrounding country and every one strove to the utmost to control their feelings; to bear up bravely and give the boys a cheerful farewell. Many a sob was smothered, many a tear restrained, many a lip kept firm which was wont to tremble.

When the time for departure came, and the drum beat that solemn, prophetic tattoo every soldier fell into line and started forward on that fatal march which led to duty for all and death for some. The Independence band led the way to the depot, the Benton County Volunteers who had been quartered in town since Tuesday followed and our Independence Guards brought up the rear.

In an issue of the *Civilian* of July 16, 1861, the captain of the Benton County Volunteers published a list of eighteen deserters from his company, some of whom had enlisted twice. He offered one cent reward for each; evidently these were not very valuable "strays," at least, not for war service, and evidently they only enlisted for fun or for show and lacked the stamina and backbone to fight. The *Vinton Eagle* resented this article in the *Civilian* declaring that they had no deserters, that every man was as "true as steel" and retaliated by saying that one member of the Independence Company deserted, was stripped of his uniform, paraded through the streets, where he was threatened and insulted and then thrown into jail because he was owing a small board bill. This was only true so far as his uniform was concerned—he was told to take that off and get out of town—which he did.

The scenes at the depot were even more affecting, hundreds of relatives and friends crowded around the departing heroes and there was enacted one of the most harrowing, tragical moments of life, which only those who have to undergo it can image "the time of parting," and on such a mission, and with no assurance of return. Every soldier in the ranks was carrying a bouquet of flowers given him as a token of love and appreciation. Before the train arrived the soldiers, all of whom were too full for words and many who had given way to their feelings and wept, now mastered their sentiments, rose to the occasion

and cheered and comforted their sorrowing friends and the spirit of patriotic fervor impelled them to cheers; cheers for "The Vinton Boys," for the wives, mothers, and sweet-hearts and the crowd of people, several thousand in number, joined in lustily, although with breaking hearts, and voices. Then Captain Lee proposed three cheers for the noble and patriotic ladies of Independence, which were given loud and long. He then proposed three cheers for the friends left at home, which were given with a will by the company. Soon the special train from the west arrived with a company from Hardin County aboard (cheerful and brave looking men) and cut short the fearful prolonged tension, which the soldiers acknowledged was much harder than facing the cannon's mouth or the hail of grape and canister which these brave men would face without flinching. The whistle sounded and the final moment of farewell came, pledges of love and friendship were exchanged, fond embraces and tender kisses were imparted and then amidst the booming of cannon, the cheers, and tears, the fluttering of handkerchiefs, waving flags and beckoning of hands, the train slowly moved off bearing away those gallant, noble hearted patriots, and with them the blessings and prayers of thousands, for their success and safe return. It takes courage to face death, but it takes more sometimes to face life with all the horrors of anxiety, suspense, privation, and despair which can befall mankind.

The wives and mothers left behind that day faced a far harder situation than did the soldiers going to the front.

Such a scene as we have tried to describe can never be effaced from the memory of those who witnessed it and we pray God that it shall never occur again.

The day the soldiers departed they were given a splendid dinner by the people of Manchester, which was certainly a most gracious and generous act.

An act which aroused the indignation and wrath of the people of Independence was that Superintendent Young of the Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad stowed part of our company and all of the Vinton company in open cattle cars, rigged up with rough board seats where the hot sun and clouds of dust made them extremely uncomfortable, and to add insult to injury, was the fact that there were several new passenger cars at the command of the company at Dubuque and with an empty one on the train. Conductor Cawley was very considerate of the men and insisted upon placing the empty passenger car at their disposal after they reached Manchester.

In the same paper which tells of the soldiers' departure is given an account of the 4th of July celebration. It seems strange that at such a sad and depressing time as this, just eight days before the first company left for war, that the citizens could think of celebrating, even though it were the 4th of July, but they did and in grand style, judging from the county papers. The day was ushered in by a national salute of thirty-four guns (one for each state) at sunrise. At 10 o'clock a procession formed at the Courthouse Square with bands, military companies, Sabbath schools, citizens, etc., a regular "old-time parade" and marched through the streets to the grove where they observed the usual 4th of July exercises, interspersed with music from the Glee Club Brass Band; W. G. Donnan read the Declaration of Independence, and William Mills, Esq., of Dubuque, gave a fine oration, followed by a national salute, a picnic dinner, military parade, balloon ascension, another national salute and ending with a grand display of fireworks

in the evening. The citizens of the county turned out en masse and participated in the good time, evidently feeling that if ever the day should be celebrated, this year should be the "capsheaf" of all others. And it was this spirit of patriotic enthusiasm which prompted them to make an extra effort for the Fourth, in order to buoy up their feelings and cover their aching hearts.

In the *Civilian* of July 23, 1861, was printed a long letter from the editor, who with the rest of the band had accompanied the soldiers down to Burlington and saw them in camp. At Dubuque all the soldiers, headed by the Independence Brass Band, paraded the streets and then to Union Park where they listened to several short, stirring patriotic speeches by Dubuque men, and then were dismissed for the rest of the day. Saturday morning they assembled again in Union Park, had another parade and dismissed until 1 o'clock when the boat arrived that was to take them to Burlington. Four companies left Dubuque on the boat and one from Allamakee County was already aboard, the others were from Benton, Delaware, Hardin and Buchanan counties and at Bellevue they took on part of another company and two brass bands, one from Lansing and the other from Independence. The Lansing band left at Lyons and the Independence band was left all alone in its glory. Our Independence band was offered the position of regimental band, on condition they would raise their number to sixteen. At every town they passed through the soldiers were accorded some sort of demonstration; music, cheering, waving flags, and some places by a cannon salute and the soldiers responded with music and cheers.

The camp grounds were 21½ miles from Burlington and when these companies arrived there were between twenty and thirty companies, 1,900 troops already there, which made 2,300 soldiers in all. All along the route the Independence Guards merited much praise for their fine appearance and good behavior; at Dubuque they were said to be the best company that had passed through Dubuque and the colonel of the regiment told the editors that he felt proud of the Independence Guards and considered them an A No. 1 Company, and they certainly were a credit to the town and county. The boys were feeling in the best of spirits and anxious to commence drilling.

Captain Lee's company, Company E of the Fifth Regiment of the Volunteer Infantry, was enrolled in Buchanan County, ordered into quarters by the governor of the state, June 29, 1861; mustered into the service of the United States by Lieut. Alexander Chambers, United States Army at Burlington, July 15, 1861, under the proclamation of the President of the United States bearing date May 3, 1861.

The following is the muster roll of Company E, Fifth Regiment Iowa Volunteers:

#### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Captain, Daniel S. Lee.  
 First Lieutenant, George C. Jordan.  
 First Lieutenant, Alexander B. Lewis.  
 Second Lieutenant, William S. Marshall.  
 Second Lieutenant, Carlos L. White.



## NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

First Sergeant, Carlos L. White.  
 First Sergeant, Thomas Blonden.  
 Second Sergeant, Kesley L. Marlin.  
 Second Sergeant, William S. Peck.  
 Third Sergeant, Charles F. Putney.  
 Fourth Sergeant, Alexander B. Lewis.  
 Fourth Sergeant, William Bunea.  
 Fifth Sergeant, William S. Peck.  
 Fifth Sergeant, Jerry Rea.  
 First Corporal, Cyrus J. Reed.  
 First Corporal, Joseph H. McWilliams.  
 Second Corporal, Eugene A. Woodruff.  
 Second Corporal, Julius F. Phelps.  
 Third Corporal, Joseph H. McWilliams.  
 Third Corporal, Frank Noble.  
 Fourth Corporal, Oscar J. M. Fuller.  
 Fourth Corporal, Simon L. Shultz.  
 Fifth Corporal, Julius F. Phelps.  
 Fifth Corporal, John B. Oliver.  
 Sixth Corporal, Frank Noble.  
 Sixth Corporal, William Codling.  
 Seventh Corporal, Leroy F. Funk.  
 Seventh Corporal, John Jarrett.  
 Eighth Corporal, Charles F. Putney.  
 Eighth Corporal, Calvin C. Pattee.  
 Musician, William H. Brown.  
 Wagoner, Henry McQueen.

## PRIVATES

David Allen, Samuel C. Allison, Joseph Anson, Madison J. Bryan, William Bunea, James Bell, William W. Baughman, Daniel H. Bill, Charles F. Bailey, William H. H. Coats, Solomon J. Clark, William S. Cushman, Elijah Chillester, William Crawford, William Codling, A. M. Conkling, John A. Davis, Thomas Donnelly, Almon J. Francis, Albert R. Goss, James B. Gaylord, John C. Geyer, James Harrigan, Martin Hallock, Morgan Holmes, Sanford Hamilton, John Jarrett, William F. Johnson, Adin B. Kinsel, Francis H. Kessler, Wilbur F. Kellogg, Castleton Leatherman, Simmens P. Mead, John W. Marlin, Charles Marsh, Charles A. Marsh, Rev. John W. McWilliams, Alexander Munger, James G. McKenzie, John B. Oliver, Levy Overhulser, Noah Porter, William R. Peters, Calvin C. Pattee, Peter Putnam, Thomas C. Puckett, James C. Perham, William Payne, Thomas Robinson, Samuel A. Reed, Jackson Rice, John Richards, Edward Roderick, Jerry Rea, Moses H. Robinson, Jackson Rice, George Sellers, John Shay, James Stack, Rufus W. Safford, Oliver Safford, George B. Sitler, Simon L. Shulz, Heman Sprague, William H. Sayre, Henry W. Snider, Hela C. Sprague, John Snider, John H. Towle, Alvin R. Wheeler, James B. Wolf, C. W.

Waggoner, Omar R. Whitman, Richard Whait, Nathan Wheeler, Ryncar M. Walker, Westley Williams, Mablon Williams, Stephen R. Washburn. Additional enlistments up to January 1, 1863, John C. McCray.

Three of our volunteers were not accepted—William Sherwood on account of a bad hand, Mr. Clark, of Littleton, who was over age, and T. Fleming, of Fremont Township, was too young.

The company, as mustered into service, numbered ninety-seven men aside from the officers.

When first heard of by their friends, they had not received their blankets and were sleeping on straw without covering and as an inevitable consequence of this sudden change in manner of living, diarrhoea was to some extent prevalent in camp.

We have settled "our soldiers" in camp ready to begin actual duties and prepare for active service, and now we must leave them and return home to recount other occurrences.

#### SOME OF THE HOME DOINGS

A man by the name of Noah Porter living at Good Hill, Bremer County, while on his way to work on Friday, June 28th, saw a notice of the acceptance of the Independence Guards, and a call for a meeting of the company on Saturday. He immediately went home, put his team in the stable, bade his wife and children good-bye and walked seventy-five miles to this place, where he enrolled himself as a member of the company.

Another incident of true patriotism and loyalty was exemplified when J. L. Loomis, who was then a clerk in the postoffice (afterwards editor of the Bulletin) first heard of the great disaster to the Federal troops at Manassas, immediately determined to volunteer and went to Dubuque in order to take advantage of the first opportunity to enlist.

Such examples of heroism were not rare.

The Dubuque Times spoke of the people and soldiers of Independence:

"Much praise is due to the people of Independence for the creditable manner in which they fitted out their volunteers. Through the liberality of the citizens the 'boys' were enabled to go into camp with a better outfit than any other company in the regiment. All spectators were struck by the gallant bearing and evident intelligence of this fine corps, and with one accord they were pronounced the star company of the five which left here last Saturday. Much is expected of them, and most assuredly they will not disappoint their friends."

Before Captain Lee left for war, some of his friends presented him with a fine Colt's navy revolver. Lieutenant Jordan was the recipient of a similar compliment, and Lieutenant Marshall would have been but he was already provided with small arms.

These men were held in the highest esteem by their fellow citizens and were deservedly popular with their men.

Captain Lee came home for a visit the last week of July and reported his company to be in excellent health and spirits. Only one man was in the hospital. After they received their blankets and cooked their rations, they were very comfortable, and much better fed than they previously had been. They were fast

acquiring proficiency in drill though their arms and equipment had not yet been supplied.

The conduct of the men received the highest commendation from their captain. Not one man had been ordered under guard and their fine soldierly bearing and orderly behavior had won them hosts of friends. Colonel Worthington had not received marching orders for his regiment, but everything pointed to an early demand for their presence in Missouri.

On the 25th of July, the friends of Company E sent them three large boxes and a barrel of delicacies "belonging to the higher departments of culinary tactics in which the boys had not been drilled." The collation reached Camp Warren at Burlington on the 2d of August and on the day following, they received marching orders which took them beyond the reach of these loving ministries.

We previously mentioned that another military company had been formed in Independence soon after the "Independence Guards," and was called the Buchanan County Light Infantry. They had their headquarters in the Allen building on South Main Street, near the bridge, and the Independence Guards had theirs in Morse's Hall (now known as the Morse flats) just west of and adjoining the Regal Hotel.

Both companies kept conscientiously drilling to perfect themselves in military tactics, having practiced at least three nights a week and much of the time every night. Captain Whitney of Quasqueton had just received word on August 6 that his company had been accepted by the governor and ordered into one of the regiments which were soon to rendezvous at Dubuque. The company was not complete at that time but was expected to be soon.

Still another company had been organized in the early summer in Jefferson Township and soon numbered over fifty men, most of whom were ready for active service. S. D. Joy, who was an orderly sergeant in the Mexican war, was elected captain, Joseph Rouse, first lieutenant, George Frink, second lieutenant.

The forming of the Light Infantry was directly due to J. M. Hord who was afterwards elected its captain. At the first election of officers for the "Guards" he was chosen as first lieutenant and K. S. Marlin as second, but this election was declared void by a law passed at the extra session of the Legislature, and so a second election was held on the 1st of June which resulted in some changes in the officers, both commissioned and non-commissioned. By this election G. E. Jordan took Hord's place as first lieutenant, and W. S. Marshall took Marlin's place as second lieutenant.

Hord with a promptness which showed that an honest desire to serve his country was paramount with him, set to work to organize a second company, and his success showed the respect and confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens.

A few weeks later, Captain Hord, accompanied the "Guards" to Burlington and while there tendered the services of his company to Governor Kirkwood, who accepted and assigned them to the Seventh Regiment which was then forming. The three first officers, Captain Hord and Lieutenants Scott and Kandy were highly commended to all desirous of enlisting as being competent and entirely worthy of confidence besides being men of experience in military affairs. Captain Hord had seen service in Mexico, Lieutenant Scott in the East Indies, and Lieutenant Kandy had for many years been an officer in the militia. About this time arrived home the first Buchanan Company soldier who was

wounded in the war. His name was Williams, a resident of Superior Township and a member of the First Regiment Iowa Volunteers. He was cordially greeted by the citizens and Captain Hord's company, who were then about ready to leave.

In an issue of the *Civilian* of August 6, 1861, we saw a notice of a "last chance to join the Buchanan County Light Infantry" which had been so fortunate as to be assigned to Hon. William Vandever's Regiment which was expected to leave for Washington via Baltimore about the first of September. And it was expected that they would be in General McClellan's Brigade but they were not, but were put into the 9th Iowa under General Fremont in Missouri. The governor had authorized Captain Hord to put his company into quarters and as soon as the men enlisted they were allowed to draw their rations and pay. This shows the great demand for troops that existed. The company then only numbered fifty-five, but so rapidly were the ranks filled up under the inspiration of this call for troops that by August 26th, they were enabled to report at Dubuque with a company which numbered eighty-eight men in the ranks and six or seven more recruits were expected to join soon, besides the officers.

Mr. Bull, proprietor of Bull's Addition to Independence, connected himself with this company acting as first lieutenant, and devoted himself to the furtherance of its interests. At the governor's suggestion an extra session of the Board of Supervisors was held taking into consideration the matter of supplying the company with uniforms. Three hundred dollars was promptly voted by the board and a resolution was also passed, declaring their willingness to give a similar amount to any company of volunteers raised in the county upon going into active service.

Colonel Vandever was so confident that the troops would be furnished uniforms before leaving Dubuque that it was only necessary that shirts, hats, shoes, and belts should be provided by the county.

And again the noble women of Independence arose to the occasion and lent their active aid and unselfish interest. Great enthusiasm for their regiment prevailed among the men on account of the high character of their colonel and the efficiency which marked their regimental organization. A battery of six cannon was attached to this regiment, making it the best appointed, thus far, that had been raised in the state.

On August 26th, a repetition of the sad and heart-breaking scenes of July 12th was enacted. Another hundred of our noble, patriotic sons had departed for the front, a second offering upon the altar of liberty, another tragic parting scene, unlike any other on earth with the sobs, the tears, the smiles, the cheers, the God-speeds of the hundreds of loving hearts left behind. And the fervent prayers that every man of them might live to return to the arms which gave them up to their country's cause.

They were accompanied to the depot even at that early hour of starting by a large concourse of people; relatives and friends, who had gathered from all over the county to say farewell and God be with you till we meet again.

The self-sacrificing, patriotic women of Independence had again demonstrated their loyalty and sympathy by making shirts for this company and presented each soldier with one of those indispensable little treasures, a needle case,

which the men certainly appreciated. A bouquet of flowers from the women and testaments from the Bible Society also were given them as to the former company, and all the ceremonies, the farewell sermon, by Reverend Sampson on the Sunday previous to their departure, the presentation speech by Reverend Fulton on Tuesday morning when the Bibles were given them, followed with prayer by Reverend Sampson. C. Heege was on hand with his cannon and gave the boys a parting salute as he did when the first company left. No partiality should be shown; every patriot should be accorded the same kind and considerate treatment by our appreciative citizens. They were a fine looking lot of young men, intelligent, and noble-hearted, brave, generous and true and the citizens took great pride in their appearance and splendid deportment. But all the pride and enthusiasm of such a time could not blind the friends to the painful fact that this parting might be forever, and this second sacrifice was even harder than the first, this second parting sadder and more painful because the people were just waking up to the fact that a terrible life-crushing, despoiling octopus "war" was eating into the very vitals of our country. The hope of reconciliation with the South had entirely vanished and although at this time the northerners considered the war to be a trivial affair and of short duration it certainly was taking on a more serious attitude, and its increasing magnitude day by day became more appreciative. Now there was no wavering or impassive sentiment among our patriotic sons. A great and vigorous sympathy with the cause of Liberty pervaded the hearts of all classes, regardless of party affiliation. This intense fervor and devotion to the Union prompted the issuance of a call for a Union Convention to be held in Independence, September 21, 1861, for the purpose of nominating sound Union men, irrespective of party for the several county offices to be voted for that fall. This crisis was the melting pot for all petty prejudices, party strife, and differences of creed—all were united and solidified to the one cause of the Union forever.

The Light Infantry Company were to be encamped in Union Park, Dubuque, and on the way down, they were given an ovation at every station. The Independence band accompanied this company and marched with them to camp as they did with the first company and a long, hot, dusty march it was. Their rations and cooking utensils were in readiness for them, each company was divided into messes of six each, and each mess cooked for themselves and roomed together. They were supplied with tin cups, pewter plates, knives and forks, basins, one coffee-pot and a camp kettle, and drew rations sufficient for three meals every morning. They had fresh beef three days a week. Camp Union was considered the best in the state, water being close at hand and everything convenient.

The Light Infantry, Ninth Regiment, elected officers at Camp Union, and the following is a complete list of all the members this company had during the war:

#### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Captain, Jared M. Hord.  
 Captain, Hiram C. Bull.  
 First Lieutenant, Hiram C. Bull.  
 First Lieutenant, Nathan Rice.

First Lieutenant, Robert W. Wright.  
 First Lieutenant, Jacob P. Sampson.  
 Second Lieutenant, William Scott.  
 Second Lieutenant, Nathan Rice.  
 Second Lieutenant, Robert W. Wright.  
 Second Lieutenant, Jacob P. Sampson.  
 Second Lieutenant, Edmund C. Little.

## NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

First Sergeant, Robert W. Wright.  
 First Sergeant, Jacob P. Sampson.  
 First Sergeant, Edmund C. Little.  
 Second Sergeant, Nathan Rice.  
 Third Sergeant, David V. Coe.  
 Third Sergeant, Edmund C. Little.  
 Third Sergeant, Hiram Holdridge.  
 Fourth Sergeant, Billings Davis.  
 Fifth Sergeant, R. T. Bain.  
 Fifth Sergeant, Charles G. Curtis.  
 First Corporal, James M. Elson.  
 Second Corporal, Charles N. Bennett.  
 Third Corporal, Ezra T. Rust.  
 Fourth Corporal, James H. Merrill.  
 Fifth Corporal, Jacob D. Sanders.  
 Sixth Corporal, Fred M. Wilbur.  
 Seventh Corporal, Charles W. Sarchet.  
 Eighth Corporal, Edmund C. Little.  
 Musician, Alpheus Losey.  
 Wagoner, David Greek.

## PRIVATES

Henry Reynolds, William Allison, E. J. Allen, Marsena Allen, Isaac Arwine, William Adams, George M. Abbott, Perry Allspraugh, Thomas J. Barber, J. H. Bower, Jesse Barnett, John C. Brown, Adelbert C. Bellus, Thomas Cress, L. D. Curtis, Isaac G. Chase, Valentine Cates, John Cartwright, Wesley Curtis, William Decker, Billings Davis, J. E. Elson, Alonzo K. Engle, John Engreman, J. H. Ford, Julius Fureht, Edwin Fary, Enoch Fary, Reuben E. Freeman, George Freyberthausen, N. A. Green, William C. Gillum, Nelson Hovey, Theodore Hyde, C. A. Hobert, Stephen Holman, Isaac N. Holman, Vinson Holman, Eli Holland, Henry Jones, Silas E. King, John M. King, Benjamin Klopp, James Leatherman, Orlando F. Lucky, Alpheus Losey, Daniel Pangburn, E. U. Patchen, Enoch Platt, B. W. Powers, William Pope, L. A. Persall, Isaiah Perdue, Philip Ritterman, Henry Reynolds, Russell Rouse, Reuben Rouse, G. Q. Rust, Darwin Rich, Aham K. Robbins, Samuel Robbins, John Rodgers, David Steele, James Steele, Charles W. Sarchett, George W. Sayre, R. R. Stoneman, James M. Sparling, Jacob P. Sampson, Thomas Smith, James A. Sutton, George A. Turner,

Royal Taylor, W. D. Thayer, Albert Utterbeek, P. Vanderbilt, William Willey, H. P. Wilber, William Whisnand, R. M. Whitlock, Pierce Walton, Adonin J. Windsor, John H. Young.

Additional enlistments up to January 1, 1863:

D. E. Godfrey, William A. Jones.

Enrolled in the County of Buchanan; went into quarters at Dubuque, July 30, 1861; mustered into the service of the United States by Capt. C. Washington, United States Army, on the twenty-fifth of September, 1861, under the proclamation of the President dated July 23, 1861.

On September 9th, two weeks after the Light Cavalry had left home, the D. & S. C. R. R. got up an excursion to Camp Union at Dubuque. Accordingly friends and relatives of the soldiers concluded to avail themselves of this opportunity. It was a rainy morning so a great many who had planned to go could not, but nevertheless two coaches full went from Independence and enjoyed the day with the "boys" and witnessed the drills, mess, etc., of real army life. And the boys enjoyed seeing the home folks again and the bountiful spread which the visitors brought.

The Friday before, a number of the local sportsmen went out to get a mess of chickens for "our boys" at Camp Union. They got 116 chickens which were shipped to them the next day. Feathers and bones were plenty and meat scarce after that Sunday dinner.

In the same issue of the *Civilian* in which appeared the account of the Light Infantry's departure is an announcement of another company being organized. Efforts to raise a cavalry company had already been commenced, the officers had sent for commissions and were only waiting their arrival. Thirty signatures had already been secured.

Doctor Parsons and B. S. Rider were active in organizing this company. Great enthusiasm was manifested in this enterprise and many enlistments were being made but before the organization was completed and pending the acceptance of the company by the proper authorities, General Fremont issued an order prohibiting the acceptance of more cavalry after the completion of the Fourth Regiment, which was then nearly full, but through the indomitable energy of Doctor Parsons his men were consolidated with those of Capt. J. H. Peters of Delaware County and were accepted into Colonel Porter's Cavalry Regiment. Doctor Parsons took the rank of second lieutenant. Between twenty and thirty men left Independence in the first week of October, and went into camp at Mount Pleasant.

During the month the regiment was sent, as were many Iowa troops, into Missouri. Through some inexcusable neglect the names of the members of this company were not published in either of the county papers, and though the company was afterwards recruited in this county, we are unable to find a roster. B. S. Rider was one of the recruiting officers for the Fourth Cavalry and came home the last week in October to solicit new recruits. Superior inducements were held out.

Quite a number of young men from the north part of the county joined Captain Ainsworth's company at Manchester. On October 15, 1861, this company left for Camp Union so that by the last of October twelve or fifteen of Superior (now Hazleton) Township's best and brightest young men had enlisted

in this company. Buchanan County had sent over three hundred men to the front—a large proportion considering the population at that time was only 7,000. The last of October, the women of Independence formed a Soldier's Aid Society, its object being to furnish blankets, comforters, and other necessities for the Western Military hospitals. These societies were being organized throughout the country and Buchanan County women were not to be outdone in this grand, noble work of ameliorating suffering and advancing the country's cause. They met at Morse's Hall on Friday eve., October 25th, and elected the following officers: Mrs. D. S. Lee, president; Mrs. J. C. Loomis, vice president; Mrs. G. W. Bemis, secretary; Mrs. G. C. Jordon, treasurer; Mrs. Dr. Warne, depository. A constitution was presented and adopted. The first two articles of their constitution read: "The name of this association shall be the Union Army Sanitary Commission (Auxiliary to the Army Sanitary Commission of the State of Iowa).

"The object of the association shall be to furnish the sick and wounded of the soldiers who may have gone from this state, with such articles as may be needed in the hospitals and camps and not furnished by the Government of the United States."

The meetings were held at the different halls: Morse's, Allen's, and the Masonic Temple every Saturday afternoon. The women sewed, patched, knit, and quilted all the afternoon, then supper was served, the gentlemen were invited and a social time, with conversation and dancing generally concluded the meetings. This aid society did a grand and noble work, devoting their time and energy and sacrificing and sharing their personal comforts, to aid the needy and sick soldiers. Their donations were liberal and useful. A 25-cent fee was charged each member.

Other "aid societies" and "soldiers' relief circles" were organized throughout the county. One at Quasqueton organized and elected the following officers: Mrs. H. C. Kellogg, president; Mrs. O. Whitney, vice president; Mrs. H. Butterfield, secretary; Mrs. D. C. Hastings, treasurer, Mrs. T. A. Jernegan, receiver.

This society met every week on Friday afternoon and at their fourth meeting had collected quite a sum of money and articles to be shipped to the soldiers.

Also steps were being taken to enroll all persons in the state, liable to military duty, to act as Home Guards, to repel invaders should it become necessary. The authorities thought it possible that they would be compelled to fight rebels on their own soil, that the battlefield might be transferred from Missouri to Iowa. Affairs were in a seething condition in Missouri.

Such being the case, it was necessary that there should be a speedy and thorough military organization in every part of the state so it was suggested by the county papers that a company of Home Guards be formed immediately in Independence. If their services were not needed, they should at least learn something of the art of war, an art with which every man, especially at such a time, should be in a degree acquainted. In the same issue of that paper, October 22nd, is a local telling of Mrs. D. S. Lee's (wife of Captain Lee) return from a visit to Company E of the Fifth Iowa Volunteers stationed at Booneville, Missouri. They had taken the place of the Iowa Second Regiment. She reported the boys all well and with Fremont's Regiment in hot pursuit of



General Price, who according to the latest dispatch had made a stand at Carthage—sixty miles from Springfield. From this it was expected that the "Independence boys" would soon have a chance to show their fighting qualities.

Another incident of that date was that the Saturday night previous a mulatto from Missouri had arrived in town. He had been brought out here from Dubuque by Bert Rider of the Cavalry Company who had run across him en route on the boat up from St. Louis and recognized the fatigue uniform of the Independence Guard in which he was dressed. At first he was afraid to acknowledge where he came from or where he got the suit, claiming he lived in Dubuque but finally, realizing he need have no fear of being deported, he told his story. He had acted as spy by informing the One Hundred and Sixtieth Home Guard stationed at Booneville of the proposed attack of 800 Rebels and then had taken refuge with the Union soldiers and in some way fell into Company E's hands, where he acted as cook for the officers for several weeks. He was perfectly suited and happy until he found, that in accordance with Fremont's proclamation, he would have to be returned to his master, so the officers furnished him clothes and money enough to get him out of the state. Captain Pickerel, of the Benton County Company, accompanied him to St. Louis and from there he took a boat to Dubuque. He knew all the Independence boys in Missouri and was very devoted to them. He was an intelligent, appreciative negro and was delighted with the idea of being a free man. He was hired to work on Captain Lee's farm. This negro, whose name proved to be Edward Herndon, afterwards went with the Twenty-seventh as a private servant for Colonels Gilbert and Lake. He returned to Independence in January, 1863, to recuperate his health and partly from the fact that the Rebels were very severe on contraband negroes and Mr. Edwards feared he might get captured.

In the next issue of the paper was an item telling of the promotion of Second Lieut. W. S. Marshall to the rank of brigade quartermaster with the pay of captain; A. B. Lewis had also been advanced to sergeant major; and Carl White had some position in the Regimental staff.

In the Civilian of November 26, 1861, is a notice of the death of Charles Marsh of Pine Creek, a member of Company E of the Iowa Fifth at Jefferson City, Missouri, said to be the first death, but it seems there must either have been two Charles Marshes or it was a mistake because in an issue of the Guardian of March 4, 1862, we see where Charles Marsh, of Captain Lee's Company, had arrived home on a furlough. He had been sick for a considerable length of time and not with his company--and possibly this was accountable for the report of his death. In the Guardian of December 24th is a statement that R. E. Freeman, a brother of P. G. Freeman, a member of Captain Hord's company, was the first to die among those who had gone from this county to the war. He died in the hospital at Pacific City, Missouri. Doctor Wright had taken him to his own home and Mrs. Wright had nursed him, but he had had an attack of bilious fever, then measles, and finally consumption claimed him as a victim. Two other young men were home on furloughs, afflicted with the same disease. Robert Paine of Company E was in a very critical condition and Carl White of Otterville was smitten with the same disease, but it was thought he would recover.

Measles, mumps, and fevers wrought great havoc in our armies. Disease always proves to be a far more formidable and deadlier foe than the cannon balls and bayonets charge of the enemy.

The ninth regiment of which Company C, "The Light Infantry," after being stationed for several months at Pacific City, engaged for the most part in guarding important railroad connections and bridges, was ordered, on the latter part of January, to break camp and move to the southwest to cooperate with the Federal troops under General Curtis, that had for some time been confronting the combined forces of Price, Van Dorn, and McCullough. The Ninth Iowa, with its battery, was in the foremost of the chase after Price and did excellent service. With the rest of Curtis' Division, it was in the neighborhood of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and shortly thereafter took part in the battle of Pea Ridge, in which some of our own soldiers did such brave and valiant service.

The brilliant battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, was fought on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of March, 1862. The Fourth and Ninth regiments and the First and Third Iowa batteries were in the thickest of this desperate struggle, and earned for themselves and their state an imperishable name. This regiment of Volunteer Patriots, but recently from the peaceful pursuits of secular life, had shown the steadiness of nerve and unconquerableness of purpose which are looked for, ordinarily, only in war veterans.

Some living yet can recall the horrible anxiety and suspense experienced here when news of this battle reached them. Those who had fathers, sons, brothers, and husbands in the Ninth Regiment who might be numbered among the 248 who had attested their courage and patriotism with their lives, and had paid their debt of honor to their country, had but a brief season of uncertainty to be endured when the list of killed and wounded revealed how miraculously the Independence boys had escaped, only one being wounded, and the pall was lifted which threatened to shroud the victory. But other poor souls in the county were called upon to sacrifice their loved ones and forget their misery in the joy of a Union victory. This battle claimed six victims in Company C. Young Nathan Rice of Vinton, Benton County, who entered the company in July, as second sergeant, and had risen to the rank of first lieutenant, headed the list of killed. Private Julius Furcht was killed and Isaac Arwine mortally wounded, and after a few weeks of suffering died. W. S. Wisenmand and John Cartwright of Spring Grove, and A. J. Windsor of Independence also died of their wounds. Marcena Allen of Littleton and O. K. Engle of Hazleton died of disease a few weeks after the battle, no less victims of war than if they had fallen in the thickest of the fight. Captain Bull, successor of Captain Hord, was slightly wounded, as also were Adjutant Scott, Sergt. P. Sampson, Corps. E. G. Curtis and J. D. Sanders with seventeen privates whose names are as follows: Privates—Isaac Irwine, wounded mortally; G. M. Abbott, wounded, died; Jesse Barnett, wounded; L. D. Curtis, wounded; James Cartwright, wounded, died; J. E. Elson, wounded; Julius Furcht, killed; David Greek, wounded; C. A. Hobart, wounded; Stephen Holman, wounded; John Leatherman, wounded; O. F. Lucky, wounded; Philip Riterman, wounded; William Whisnand, wounded, died; A. J. Windsor, wounded; Russell Rowse, wounded; Samuel Robbins, wounded.

John Cartwright, a member of Company C, Ninth, died at the Fremont House, Dubuque, May 5th. He had been shot in the foot and did not receive proper medical attention, which neglect caused his death. He was a resident of Spring Grove and a member of Captain Bull's company. He was the third of nine young men who enlisted at the same time from that locality, who died from wounds received at Pea Ridge. Two others of the nine were wounded and two others were sent home disabled. This brave little band had suffered severely. Only two were left in an effective condition and John Leatherman was reported as being unable to live.

S. B. Curtis had three sons in the thickest of the heroic fight at Pea Ridge. One was severely wounded in the leg, and the other slightly in the knee, and the third had a narrow escape, a ball cutting a strap in two on his shoulder. All three were afterwards in the charge of Vicksburg and although fully one-third of the company were either killed or wounded, they miraculously escaped.

Orderly Sampson, Orlando Lucky, Russell Rowse, and George Abbott all were injured in the battle of Pea Ridge. Sampson was wounded in the head; Russell Rowse had a flesh wound caused by a ball passing through his thigh; Orlando Lucky also had a wound in the hip.

For several days the town flag was suspended across Main Street, draped in mourning in memory of those volunteers from Independence and Buchanan County who fell in the battle of Pea Ridge.

Lieutenant Marshall of Company C wrote home that he had received his commission as quartermaster with the rank of captain. He was a popular, efficient, and favored officer with his regiment and everyone was glad of his promotion. Alexander Lewis had received a lieutenant's commission. By his soldierly qualities, intelligence, and fidelity to duty, he had gone onward in the line of promotion.

Another victim of the war was Milton Nelson who died of fever in a St. Louis hospital. He came from Greeley's Grove in this county and was a member of Captain Ainsworth's company.

Company C, Ninth Regiment, were at Lebanon on February 8, 1862, preparing for a forced march on Springfield. All were in high spirits at the prospect of a fight. Lieutenant Bull was acting as commander after the resignation of Captain Hord. He had been offered a position on General Curtis' staff but declined, preferring the captaincy of Company C.

James Sparling of Company C was acting as commissary at the hospital and had proven so valuable to the surgeon that he would not consent to his leaving.

The Iowa troops claimed at the battle of Pea Ridge, the position accorded them in every contest in the West, "the post of danger, the post of brave deeds, and the post of death," and Company C had its full quota of these distinctions.

Another incident of the battle of Pea Ridge which depicts the indomitable coolness of the youthful hero E. C. Little was related by Adjutant Scott.

In the beginning of the battle Sergeant Little, who at that time was seventeen years old, had his gun blown out of his hand by a shell which exploded near him, whirling it so far from him that he could not recover it. Without wasting words or time he coolly possessed himself of another and this too was soon ruined by a shot striking it. Unmoved, at least outwardly, he was not

long in taking his place again "fully equipped" and with this third piece went through the three days' battle without a scratch, although he received several balls in his clothing.

In the foregoing account, it spoke of Captain Bull—(Captain Hord had resigned his commission as captain of Company C and was expected to arrive home soon). There had been considerable complaint against him, and his resignation was hailed with general satisfaction by all his men. While in the army, Eugene Woodruff, an Independence boy, received an appointment as cadet to West Point by Colonel Vandever. He was a fine, exemplary citizen and soldier and everyone was delighted over his good fortune. He was a member of Company E, Fifth Regiment, stationed at Booneville and came home to recuperate before reporting at West Point in June. About this time, Charles Lathrop, of this city, also received an appointment to a clerkship in the Navy Department at Washington. It was a post of much responsibility, but Mr. Lathrop was fully competent for the position. He afterwards became quite prominent in the patriotic societies at Washington and occasionally demonstrated his forensic abilities on the political platform during the exciting campaign of 1864.

John Marlin of Captain Lee's company had returned home May 23rd from Corinth. He was discharged on account of deafness.

A meeting of the citizens of the county was held at the courthouse on Saturday afternoon, May 24, 1862, for the purpose of forming a Soldiers' Relief Association. Isaac G. Freeman acted as chairman and L. A. Main as secretary. The following officers were elected: John Fulton, president; A. Ingalls and L. W. Hart, vice presidents; W. G. Donnan, secretary; George Warne, treasurer.

The following gentlemen were selected to form, in connection with the officers of the society, an executive committee: Dr. W. C. Nelson of Superior (now Hazleton) Township, S. B. Curtis and Henry Sparling of Washington; J. M. Benthall, Liberty; M. O. Safford, Sumner; and George Hovey, Perry Township.

On motion Jacob Rich, Dr. George Warne, and Rev. H. Townsend were appointed delegates to the state convention to be held at Davenport on Wednesday, June 28, for the purpose of more concerted action. They adopted a constitution, a part of which was as follows:

Art. 1. Title. The name of this organization shall be Buchanan County Soldiers' Relief Association.

Art. 2. Object. Its object shall be the relief of the wounded, sick and disabled volunteers, residents of or enlisted from Buchanan County, with surgical or other necessary aid and supplies.

Art. 3. Members. Any person may become a member of this association by contributing to its funds.

There were other articles and laws but these state the general principle of the association.

A finance committee representing every township in the county was appointed by the executive committee: L. D. Lewis of Alton (now Fairbank), John Kent of Superior (now Hazleton); Charles Bennett, Buffalo; J. B. Ward, Madison; Andrew T. Payne, Fremont; I. H. Morgan, Byron; Rev. Wm. Sampson, Washington; D. B. Sanford, Perry; P. G. Davis, Westburg; Henry Washburn, Sumner; James Rankin, Liberty; Daniel Leatherman, Middlefield; Philip

Peyton, Newton; William Anson, Cono; Joseph McGeary, Homer; Joel Phelps, Jefferson.

This organization was the culmination of a meeting held at W. G. Donnan's office on Friday evening, May 16, 1862, to listen to suggestions from Reverend Brindle, of Dubuque, relative to the needs of the soldiers. Other states were making provision for their sick and wounded soldiers and Iowa men, the bravest in the field, should not be neglected.

The State Sanitary Commission, of which the women's organizations were auxiliaries, had done a wonderful service and had generously supplied the hospital necessities but they could not possibly meet the great want of surgeons and nurses and requisite hospitals and medical stores.

The battles at Fort Donelson and Pittsburgh Landing had demonstrated very conclusively the dire need of these hundreds of our brave soldiers, whose wounds were scarcely serious at first, but many died from them from neglect. So Governor Kirkwood, acting with the State Sanitary Committee, proposed to form county relief associations, through which the names of volunteer surgeons and nurses might be obtained, ready to go whenever and wherever their services were needed. Another object was to facilitate the forwarding of the bodies of deceased soldiers to their friends. The efforts of the associations were to be directed to the relief of our own soldiers. Other states had sent steamers fitted up with every appliance requisite for the relief of their wounded and Iowa soldiers had a right to expect the same consideration at the hands of their friends. The battle then impending at Corinth made prompt and active efforts necessary. Mr. Brindle explained all these points and the motion, that such an organization be established in this county, was carried unanimously. Therefore, on motion, a committee of five, consisting of Messrs. James Fulton, S. J. W. Tabor, Wm. Sampson, T. H. Bowers, and A. Ingalls were appointed, to take the necessary preliminary steps for the formation of such an association. Reverend Sampson acted as chairman, and Jacob Rich as secretary.

At a meeting of the Soldiers' Aid Society which was held on Friday afternoon, May 2, 1862, for the purpose of reorganization, the following women were elected to office: Mrs. E. J. Pratt, president; Mrs. E. W. Purdy, vice president; Miss Mary Woodward, secretary; Miss Louisa Bryant, treasurer; Mrs. Dr. Bryant, depository. Directors—Mrs. Dr. Warne, Mrs. A. E. Wilcox, Mrs. R. Campbell, and Mrs. Parker. Solicitors—Mrs. Dr. House, Mrs. A. J. Bowley, Mrs. Bullene, and Mrs. E. Whitney.

The Iowa troops were receiving unstinted praise all over the country for their gallant and fearless bravery in battle. The Chicago papers lauded them highly and General Curtis' official report of the battle of Pea Ridge gave ample praise to Colonel Vandever and his regiment, which embraced the Independence Guards, Company C.

During the war there was much bitter feeling throughout the Union sympathizing states toward ex-President Buchanan and in the Iowa State Register of March 25, 1862, in speaking of the counties named after noted traitors, it said Buchanan County ought to come in for a change of name; for if the man from whom it received its name was not a traitor, he was at best the facile tool of the traitors; many of their prominent citizens are very anxious to have it changed to Lincoln. We have understood that there really was some talk of

this nature at one time, but nothing materialized from it and the view that the Guardian took of the matter was probably a universal one: "The name certainly is no great credit to the county, but the county, we apprehend, rather honors the name; and in view of the fact that there is so little that is creditable connected with the name, we should be opposed to the change. Let whatever good stands connected with men's names remain." Afterwards the name growing more and more offensive, the papers advocated a change and Quasqueton, Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, and Lincoln were suggested as substitutes.

The Iowa Fifth had just received marching orders to the Northern Pacific Railroad, where they surmised they were to be moved to Leavenworth, Kansas, to form part of Lane's brigade, but were sent to Commerce, Missouri, instead, probably to join Pope's division which was headed toward New Madrid.

Reverend Sampson was the home treasurer for our soldier boys, who every few weeks sent home money to the amount of several hundred dollars. This amount increased until it reached several thousand at times—once as high as \$5,068, the savings for three or four months, and he would distribute it to their folks, and in that way save considerable expense. In the winter of 1862, the position of Captain Lee's company was changed in the regiment and was then Company C or the color company. Lieutenant Foley and Sergeant White, while here, had recruited five men for the Fifth Regiment. Four of them were from Independence. They were John H. Stewart, Henry Williams, Charles Brockway, Henry Whait, all fine young men. The other recruit was W. McCray from Bremer County.

Lieutenant Jordan wrote from Cairo, under date of February 22d, that he had but fifty-seven men, having detailed twelve men on detached service at St. Charles, Missouri. The rest were either discharged or sick at home or in hospitals in Missouri. Captain Lee was still at Booneville, having been left there as provost marshal—he was responsible for a large amount of property which he must guard until he could properly dispose of it. The Fifth Iowa was then in Pope's division in the field.

In the battle at Fort Donelson, the Twelfth Iowa Regiment had two killed and twenty-seven wounded. Captain Ainsworth's company of Manchester was in this regiment and had four men slightly wounded. R. C. Palmer and George Kint from Hazleton were among those. Recruiting officers were stationed at Independence and Quasqueton to receive volunteers and were receiving fresh recruits all the time. As we have stated, the Fifth was doing siege duty with Pope's brigade at New Madrid, Missouri, seeking to capture this place and thus break the strength of the Confederacy. It held the place by a force of 40,000 rebels behind a double line of fortifications, and was one of the links in that chain of defenses which seemed to bind the Mississippi to the South with bands of steel. During the siege, the fatigue and exposure, acting upon a constitution already enfeebled by disease, prostrated the gallant Jordon and even while his friends at home were indulging in hopes that rest and care would fully restore him, a relapse took him beyond the need of human aid and in the midst of the rejoicing over the signal victory of our troops at Pea Ridge and Fort Donelson, and the wonderful escape from loss of life of the Buchanan County boys, came the unlooked for announcement that Lieutenant Jordon of Company E, Fifth Iowa, was dead.

Lieut. George C. Jordan was one of the most popular and best loved men who left our county to go to the front. Kind, generous, intelligent, noble, and virtuous, he won all hearts and secured universal esteem. The news of his death was a great shock to the community and produced the deepest and most sincere mourning. It was looked upon as a great public calamity. Never had there lived here a man who was more honored and respected, or one who was more lamented; never had there been a death which caused such general and such profound grief. For thirteen years he had been a very close and intimate friend and business partner of Mr. Rich, editor of the Guardian, and that gentleman wrote one of the most beautiful and impressive eulogies to him that it has ever been our privilege to read. It was full of the highest encomiums and praises worthy the noble hero that he was. The county papers were entirely devoted to the obituary; memorials, letters and resolutions concerning him, eulogy and adoration for his beautiful and noble life—sorrow and regret for his sad, untimely death. At a meeting of the commissioned officers of the Fifth Iowa Volunteers, at regimental headquarters, resolutions of sympathy and condolence to the grief-stricken wife and the sorrowing friends and relatives were drafted by a committee of three, consisting of Lieutenant Morarity, Captain Lee, and Lieutenant Caswell, and one of the resolutions was that the officers of the Fifth Iowa Volunteers wear the usual military badge of mourning for thirty days. Company E also held a meeting in camp at New Madrid for the purpose of expressing their sorrow for the loss of their highly esteemed officer, Lieut. George C. Jordan, and extending their sympathies to his afflicted family and friends. Lieut. W. S. Marshall, Acting Adjt. A. B. Lewis, and Private Cyrus J. Reed were appointed to draft resolutions.

The grandest tributes, which could possibly be given mortal man, were embraced in these resolutions, which were unanimously adopted and copies of the proceedings sent to each of the county papers for publication and also a copy to the wife of the deceased.

A most eloquent, though unpremeditated tribute to the memory of this noble and inspiring character, was the departure of sixteen men to join Company E which occurred within a week after the funeral of the lamented Jordan. These sixteen men were recruited in Independence and the following is a list of their names:

John W. Stewart, John C. McCray, William H. Williams, Charles Brockway, H. J. Whait, S. E. Rowse, G. M. Watson, John H. Ginther, John Bain, F. M. Guard, Foster Harris, William E. Conway, John Minton, W. O. Morse, S. F. Turner, Daniel Beekley.

Of this number thus ready to step into the breach made by those fallen from the ranks of our country's defenders, John H. Ginther, a young man twenty-one years of age, and of remarkably sound, robust constitution, died of typhoid fever at Camp McClellan, Davenport, while the company was waiting for uniforms, preparatory to joining the regiment at New Madrid.

The spring of 1862 was signalized by brilliant successes on the part of the Union troops in the West and Southwest. But these were not achieved without a price. Much sacrifice of life had been made and many existing military organizations required to be filled up with new recruits, thus to keep up the army's efficiency and be able to retain their acquired advantages. In June of this year

a call was made by the President for 300,000 men to be "enrolled without delay, so as to bring this unnecessary and injurious war to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion."

Quite a number of recruits from the southern part of the county had enlisted in companies outside the county through operation of the bounty system. Between twenty-five and thirty-five recruited into a Linn County company and several in a Benton County company in this way. They properly should have enlisted with the home companies and joined either Captain Noble's or Miller's company but the supervisors had not, as yet, offered a bounty. The United States Government was calling for 300,000 more troops and also was offering a premium of \$2 for each accepted recruit. An agitation was aroused to get the board of supervisors into action. A public war meeting was held at the courthouse August 2d, to take steps relative to making efforts for the furtherance of enlistments. L. W. Hart acted as chairman and J. Rich as secretary. Messrs. Woodward, Wilcox, and Tabor spoke as to the best course to pursue. A committee of six, which was afterwards changed to twelve, was appointed to wait upon the board of supervisors and present this resolution, which was unanimously passed: "Resolved, It is the sense of this meeting, that the supervisors of this county be earnestly requested to vote an appropriation of from fifty to one hundred dollars as a bounty to be paid to each volunteer required to make up the quota for this county." The committee was as follows: Doctor House, Edward Brewer, T. H. Bowen, L. W. Hart, J. D. Myers, J. M. Westfall, Judge Tabor, P. C. Wilcox, C. F. Leavitt, T. Scarelliff, J. S. Woodward, and J. M. Miller. A finance committee of three was appointed to solicit subscriptions to assist recruiting. Messrs. Wilcox, Stout, and Woodward were appointed as the committee. Remarks were made by Doctor House, and Messrs. Baker, Hart, Roszell, Bowen, Noble, Jones, Colonel Thomas, and Reverend Sampson.

It was ordered that the music committee, consisting of Messrs. Bowen, Ross, and Doctor House, as soon as possible, provide music for Mr. Noble's company. Another meeting was strongly favored and Messrs. Bullene, Roszell, and Doctor Hunt were appointed as a committee on arrangements and a mass meeting was voted to be held at the courthouse on the Saturday following, August 9th, at 12 o'clock. Thereafter a petition was circulated requesting the board of supervisors to meet on the 13th of August, 1862, and praying them to offer a bounty. The meeting held on Saturday afternoon, August 9, 1862, was organized with James Rankin, Esq., acting as chairman, and H. C. Heminway, as secretary. A committee consisting of Messrs. Fulton, Hastings, and Chandler, was appointed to suggest the proper action to be taken, and resolutions were adopted, similar to those adopted by the first meeting, urging the importance of raising volunteers to fill the entire quota required from this county, under the President's call for 300,000 volunteers and also under the order recently issued for a draft of a like number, requesting the board of supervisors to offer a bounty to volunteers and to make adequate and permanent provisions for the support of the families of volunteers who had enlisted from this county. William Mills, of Dubuque, was to have been present to address the meeting, but was unable to be there. A letter from him was read.

A dispatch from Washington, dated July 29th, says that Governor Kirkwood had been authorized by the secretary of war to make a draft for soldiers when-



ever and wherever he should think proper, in this state. This was done to reach ill-disposed traitors who were discouraging enlistments. Some of the states had abandoned the bounty policy and had commenced drafting soldiers into the service, but it was thought that Buchanan, having sent such a large proportion, would escape their drafting policy, but if she should be delinquent, undoubtedly Washington Township would be called upon to make up the deficiency, but she did not escape. Buchanan County's quota for the first regiment from this district was forty-eight as a minimum and sixty for a maximum.

Under the two calls, she was required to raise about two hundred and forty men, and that in a short time. Mr. Rieh made a most earnest and magnanimous appeal to his political enemies to drop all party strife, and to unite in the furtherance of their country's cause. "Let them," he said, "show a genuine patriotism, forget party prejudice and join hands in this common cause—and make all the sacrifices that free men and patriots fighting for the glorious heritage of freedom are in duty bound to make and enlist in the struggle. If there must be strife, let it be a friendly contest as to which political party shall furnish the most means and the most men for the conflict."

Alfred Ingalls had been appointed commissioner and Dr. George Warne, surgeon, to superintend the draft of this county. Sheriff Westfall promptly completed the draft and Commissioner Ingalls was ready to hear applications for exemption.

Accordingly, on Wednesday, August 13th, the board of supervisors met at the courthouse to take into consideration the subject of voting a bounty to volunteer soldiers. There were present Messrs. Allen, Beach, Bemis, Cameron, Dickey, Flemming, Freeman, Hillman, S. T. Hovey, J. G. Hovey, Ironsides, Johnson, Lillie, Logan, and Ward.

Mr. Bemis offered the following resolution: Resolved, By the Board of Supervisors of Buchanan County, that there is hereby appropriated out of the county fund of said county, a sum of money sufficient to pay \$25.00 to each actual resident of this county, who is the head of a family, who shall be mustered into the military service of the United States for the term of three years or during the war, under the last two calls of the President of the United States; also the sum of \$5.00 to each single man who is not the head of a family.

Mr. Logan offered the following as a substitute, and advocated its adoption. Whereas, a pressing necessity now exists for volunteers, to reinforce our army now in the field, and whereas, the governor of Iowa, is calling loudly for volunteers, to aid in putting down the rebellion: Resolved, That the Board of Supervisors of Buchanan County, Iowa, in special session, authorize the clerk of said board, to issue warrants on the county treasury to be paid out of any money, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$25 each, to each single man and \$50 to each married man, of said county, who has or may enlist under the first call of 300,000 men, or under the second call.

Resolved, That we pledge the credit of the county, as far as absolutely necessary, to the families of those who have, or may hereafter, enlist under said calls.

Mr. Ward made an excellent patriotic speech in advocacy of the substitute.

Messrs. Allen, Ironsides, and Johnson opposed the proposition on the ground of a want of power in the board.

Mr. J. S. Woodward, on the part of a committee of the people, by permission, spoke in favor of voting the bounty.

Mr. Hart followed in a short, earnest feeling appeal to the board to do whatever patriotism could prompt in furtherance of the cause of that Constitution which before and above everything else they have sworn to support. His speech was right to the point, and every word, "weighed in the scales of patriotism," according to the Guardian. When he concluded the question was called for and Mr. Logan's resolution was substituted for Mr. Bemis' and adopted. The vote stood nine ayes to six nays.

Mr. Dickey offered the following resolution which was not agreed to: Resolved, That the clerk of the supervisors of Buchanan County, Iowa, be authorized to borrow money on the credit of the county for the purpose of paying the appropriation made for bounty to volunteers at 5 per cent. There was no further business so the board then adjourned. Later it was urged that the board of supervisors appropriate a county bounty to volunteers who had enlisted previous to the bounty system and had as yet received no favors from the county but the board refused to issue warrants when there was no basis to give them valuation.

All was not perfect harmony among the soldiers at the front. Often they forgot the purport of the great strife in the absorbing issue of petty affairs. Letters back and forth from the soldiers printed in the local papers showed considerable animosity at times and prove very interesting reading after fifty-two years. Everyone was accusing everyone else of being disloyal and unpatriotic and even traitors to their country. Especially was the feeling manifest between the two political parties, many of the democrats criticising the methods of the republican administration, also questioning the motives and policies of the leaders and the causes for war. These certainly were awful times, the disruption of the Union itself and the continuous wrangling and opposition to all its proceedings. Even the loyal men at the front, Captain Lee, for example, was sorely criticised and maligned for his attitude on the slavery question. There was so much diversified opinion about the abolition question, but the real quarrel was, of course, confined to the different political parties. Between our own county papers, as well as in every other county, where there were strongly opposing political parties, there existed the most bitter and acrid antagonism. Every week found columns devoted to the most sarcastic and stinging criticism of each other and their political attitude sometimes so personal it would seem that only some very tangible settlement could pacify them and yet what could that profit them. The old quotation "the pen is mightier than the sword" proved true in this case, and retaliation with that more deadly weapon was entirely satisfactory and a great deal more interesting, especially to the voracious perusers of the Guardian and the Civilian. Each week the battle waxed more furious and hot, each week brought fresh, juicy morsels to the watering mouth of scandal.

One particularly exciting incident was when Mr. Rich, the editor of the Guardian, offered himself as a target for rebel bullets and guaranteed to find some good republicans to go with him if Colonel Thomas and Judge Roszell, or either of them, would also enlist. These two men, Thomas and Roszell, were leading democrats and strongly opposed and criticised the administration, the

republican party and particularly Mr. Rich, who was agitating the further progress of enlistments, bounties for soldiers, etc., all of which they opposed. Colonel Thomas replied to the proposition in a cleverly sarcastic letter, partly accepting the proposition and declaring that if he were rejected by the United States officer, when being mustered into service, that he would go and fight on his own hook, and if by the regulations of the War Department he was forbidden to do that, he would then go as cook to his worthy townsman, Captain Noble, of the company then being raised.

In the same issue as appeared Colonel Thomas' letter was a petition signed by about a hundred citizens almost exclusively from Washington Township, begging Mr. Rich to reconsider his decision and stick by "the ship of state" at home, that his duty was to continue at the laborious, responsible and too often thankless post of conducting and publishing the paper which he had so ably and efficiently edited, "as an exponent of republican loyalty, as the vigorous defender of the war measures of the administration, as the friend and organ of our chivalrous volunteers, as the supporter of the principles of freedom in our county, in our judicial and in our congressional districts, and as the uncompromising opponent of rebellion, treason, secession, and slavery in all their various disguises and forms." The discontinuance of the paper would be a public calamity for our county. "Peace has her victories as well as war," and there must be those who show their devotion to their country at home as well as in the "tented field," etc. Several other petitions were circulated throughout the county and had their desired effect on the editor. He concluded to remain at his post of duty, not only for the sake of his subscribers, but on account of his duty to Mrs. Jordan, widow of his late partner, who had laid down his life for the cause and in view of the fact that his enlistment meant the entire destruction of his business and destroyed her sole means of support.

It was soon announced that enlistments were increasing at a rapid rate and as before Buchanan County was not slow in answering to the Government's call. Mr. J. D. Noble, a commission merchant of Independence, was the first to initiate steps for raising a company which at once met with encouraging success.

Captain Bull of Company C, Ninth Regiment, had received an appointment of paymaster in the regular army of the United States, with the rank of major. He resigned his position as captain and left immediately for St. Louis, to the regret of his company, but every one was glad of the captain's promotion. Lieutenant Wright received the unanimous vote of the company to fill the vacancy. Word was received that Edwin Sparling of Washington Township and a member of Captain Power's company of the Ninth Iowa Regiment had died in the summer of 1862 at Batesville, Arkansas. Captain Lee sent a copy of a general order issued by the commander of the army of the Mississippi requiring that all absentees from their companies should send a certificate of an army medical officer of their inability to rejoin their regiment within thirty days, or they would be reported as deserters. In this vicinity passes could be obtained of Colonel Allison of Dubuque or A. Brown of Cedar Falls.

There had been so many different enlistments for different periods and so many home on furloughs and sick leave that it was difficult to keep track of them, and there had been so many desertions too.

The Fourth this year, 1862, was celebrated in a very quiet manner; there was no lack of patriotic spirit but no one seemed inclined to go ahead and make the necessary arrangements. But the country people looked to Independence to furnish them the entertainment, so accordingly they flocked to town in large numbers, and an impromptu program was gotten up which proved both profitable and entertaining. The children were well amused by the antics of a negro, negro band, and a young "Cadets" parade. And in the afternoon, there was a gathering in the grove near the Methodist Church, where fine speeches were made by D. D. Holdridge and Jed Lake, Esqrs., which satisfied the grown-ups and reflected much credit on these gentlemen.

Captain Heege's Artillery Company had six horses attached to the old cannon belonging to the city and with its mounted escort looked very imposing. They fired several national salutes. The Cadets looked very splendid in their white pants, blue caps, and red scarfs, and marched well—they numbered twenty-five, carried a "nice flag" and were headed by a drum corps of boys who played very well for amateurs.

The spirit of the soldier had invaded and pervaded every youthful heart and was exemplified in even the games of the tiniest youngsters.

In the July 15th paper, we see where two more brave soldiers of Captain Lee's company had died, viz.: Jackson Rice of Jefferson Township and R. M. Walker of Fairbank Township. These men had been sick and in the soldiers' hospital and died very suddenly. Both were splendid soldiers. The Fifth Regiment was reported as having only 300 men fit for duty; they were then stationed near Rienzi, below Corinth, Mississippi, but expected to move soon. Simeon Mead, a member of Captain Lee's company, was sent home on account of physical disability.

Already it was mid-summer, the harvest almost past, and with the appropriation of the bounty offered by the board of supervisors, and the month's advance pay granted by the Government, men of families were enabled to provide for them at the beginning of their enlistment. This liberality produced a marked effect in the rapid increase of volunteers in this county and in fact everywhere the policy was adopted.

The good work was soon progressing not only at the county seat, under the direction of Mr. Noble, but also at Quasqueton under the supervision of Mr. Whitney and in Byron Township a company was being raised by Jacob M. Miller. The fire of patriotism had lost none of its ardor and at the first breath was again ablaze. Some of the most prominent men of the county responded to this urgent call: Messrs. W. G. Donnan and Jed Lake being among the number. Lieutenant Foster was in Independence recruiting for the old Iowa regiments and Lieutenant Geary of the regular army had recruited at least fifty men for the regular service, from this county.

Eleven men had been recruited for Company C, Ninth Iowa, then stationed at Jacinto, Mississippi.

Letters from Captains Lewis and Little of Companies E and G, of the Ninth and Fifth Iowa regiments, respectively, urging men to enlist and fill up the old companies appeared in the September papers. Company E needed eight or ten and Company C twenty to fill its quota.

Captain Little writes that his company had numbered 101 while at St. Louis a few months previous, and now, July 28th, their aggregate was only 77, and several of that number were disabled, probably for life.

One of the really pleasant incidents of the war occurred on August 3, 1862, when in camp near Helena, Arkansas, the Ninth Iowa Regiment was presented with a flag of the regimental colors and one of the national flags by the women of Boston, Massachusetts, as an evidence of their interest in them as soldiers of the Union, and as a token of their grateful admiration for the valor and heroism displayed by them on the memorable field of Pea Ridge. The flag was a beautiful thing made of white silk on one side and crimson on the other. The inscription on the white side was beautifully inscribed in gold letters, "Pea Ridge, Arkansas, March 7th and 8th." In the center, held by two greyhounds, was the scroll with the words "Iowa Greyhounds." This was over the eagle which was in the center of the flag, with the Iowa coat of arms; all of which was encircled with a beautiful gold border. On the opposite, crimson side, handsomely embellished in gold letters were the words, "From your country women of Massachusetts," with the coat of arms of the old Bay State, and the words, "Pea Ridge," again inscribed on the field under the coat of arms, with the same border. On the flag staff was a fine gold bronzed eagle with a splendid gold tassel in his mouth. The staff was so arranged that the flag could be detached by a spring and folded in a moment.

The other was the national flag, with its blue field, and its broad stripes and one large star in the center of the field, encircled with thirty-four more in a gold ring or border, and with the words, "Pea Ridge, March 7th and 8th, 1862," inside the circle. The flag staff and tassel were the same as on the other. This made one of the finest stands of regiment colors in the army of the Southwest. The "color guard" was composed of eight corporals and one sergeant, and was placed on the left of the right center, forming on the left of Company C (Captain Bull's company), and then the color company, and Sergt. Charles Curtis of Company C was the color sergeant; the corporals were taken one from each company. No wonder the Buchanan boys were proud of their honor to carry these beautiful tokens of appreciation and esteem on to victory.

Miss Phoebe Adams, of Boston, Massachusetts, presented the flags in a most gracious and beautiful manner, paying warm tributes and eulogies to the "Iowa Greyhounds"—(we are unable to find whence comes this name, but it has continued or rather a semblance of it, almost up until the present).

The State Militia Company at Dubuque has always been known as the "Governor Greys," even before the Civil war.

Colonel Vandever, on behalf of his regiment, accepted the magnificent gift and responded in a most eloquent and touching reply, paying tribute to the Ninth Iowa, which with a Missouri regiment and Captain Hayden's battery was assigned the post of honor and of danger on the morning of the first day of the battle of Pea Ridge. They were fighting greatly superior forces, and for hours were hotly pressed with a terrific fire. Of the small band of 565 of this regiment, that marched so valiantly into battle, 239 lay dead and wounded on the field, at the close of the contest. (We have previously told how Company C suffered.) And it shall not be forgotten that on the day preceding the battle

they performed an almost unbelievable feat of marching forty miles between daylight and dark to reach the field of anticipated strife.

These colors were jealously guarded and cherished by the regiment all through the war, were borne many long weary miles, and on many a victorious field, riddled and torn with bullets, and covered with the many scars of battle, and afterwards were presented by the unanimous voice of the regiment, one to the original donors, and the other to Brevet Major-General Vandever, the old commander of the regiment, whom the men of his original command never ceased to hold in the warmest esteem.

The enthusiasm continued unabated and culminated in the enlisting of two companies. The members of both companies gathered at Independence on the 18th and 19th of August with hundreds of their friends to bid them a sad farewell. Again were the sad and tragic scenes of the former partings reenacted except perhaps with a more intense feeling, because more and more did they realize what this parting meant. Both companies were filled to the maximum number. Captain Noble had 106 men enlisted and the character of the men was such as to promise the highest honor to the country, the state, their county and themselves. Captain Miller's company had eleven men rejected, while Captain Noble had only one, by the mustering officer at the examination and swearing in of the company at Dubuque. Jacob M. Miller was elected captain of the company by acclamation, but further organization was deferred by both companies until they should be in camp at Dubuque. At first Captain Noble's whole company was quartered at the Graffert House and Captain Miller's in three different places but all in comfortable quarters, which would go into camp as soon as the Twenty-first Regiment left, which probably would be August 29th. Company H held its election at the city hall, Dubuque, August 27th, it being an enthusiastic and harmonious election.

The roster of Company H, Captain Miller's, taken from the official report of the adjutant general is here appended. This regiment was attached to the Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry.

#### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Captain, Jacob M. Miller.  
 First Lieutenant, Otis N. Whitney.  
 Second Lieutenant, William G. Doman.

#### NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

First Sergeant, Aaron M. Wilcox.  
 Second Sergeant, Wesley G. Smyser.  
 Third Sergeant, Charles W. Woolley.  
 Fourth Sergeant, Charles W. Evans.  
 Fifth Sergeant, Mark Brownson.  
 First Corporal, Joseph H. Blank.  
 Second Corporal, Daniel Anders.  
 Third Corporal, John G. Litts.  
 Fourth Corporal, Alonzo L. Shurtleff.



REUNION OF THE 27TH IOWA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY AT INDEPENDENCE,  
SEPTEMBER 9TH AND 10TH, 1885

Second Corporal, Charles H. Wright.  
 Third Corporal, Jonathan F. Gates.  
 Fourth Corporal, Lewis A. Main.  
 Fifth Corporal, Frederick Spragg.  
 Sixth Corporal, George Frink.  
 Seventh Corporal, William P. Warren.  
 Eighth Corporal, George N. Whit.  
 Musician, Robert N. White.  
 Musician, Harry Green.  
 Musician, Oliver Bray.  
 Wagoner, Byron C. Hale.

#### PRIVATES

Eli Anderson, Hiram Abbot, Emery S. Allen, Richard H. Andrews, Daniel L. Brisbin, Job Barnes, Gilbert P. Brant, Eli C. Brown, William B. Burris, Warren Bouck, Henry M. Bailey, George W. Beaman, John Brady, Michael Butler, Lorin D. Carpenter, John S. Coates, Kneedham N. Crandall, Levi Durham, Electus L. Frizelle, Erasmus B. Frizelle, Zenas R. Fary, Franklin B. Fredenburg, George H. Fuller, Joel Fisher, James C. Glass, Harry Green, George W. Hilling, Abner B. Hoffman, Gilbert L. Hicks, Matthias Hook, David N. Jewett, David F. Johnston, Martin T. King, Willard H. King, William S. King, John R. Laton, Abraham Littlejohn, William H. Lueder, Walter S. Munger, William B. Minton, Reuben G. Merrill, David McGowan, William Milligan, Carr W. Mosher, Joel D. Nourse, James H. O'Brien, Rezin Orput, Samuel V. Pelley, Gilbert R. Parish, Joseph Russell, James E. Robinson, John G. Rice, Henry H. Romig, Elliott V. Smith, Joel S. Smith, Cyrus E. Smith, Samuel H. Smith, Daniel S. Spragg, John W. Sanders, Edward H. Spalding, George H. Spalding, Benjamin S. Sager, Lucian Stevens, Albert Tennis, Sylvanus Taylor, N. D. Vaneman, John D. Van Cleave, Jesse Wroten, John M. Watson, Joseph A. Williams, Seth Wheaton, Thomas Watson, David E. Wheeler, Eri A. Wilson, George Wille, James G. Warren, Abisha W. Washburn, Thomas Linn.

Captain Miller's company was at first designated as Company C but this name was given to Captain Noble's company and the former Company C became Company H. Both companies were in the Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry. They were ordered by Governor Kirkwood to rendezvous at Camp Franklin, Dubuque, August 26, 1862, and were mustered into the service of the United States by Capt. George S. Pierce, United States Army, on October 3, 1862, under proclamation of the President of the United States, bearing date July 2, 1862, as Companies C and H of the Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry.

All during the war, the different churches, schools and societies throughout the county and particularly at Independence were getting up patriotic entertainments for the purpose of raising money for the soldiers and everything that could be spared from the homes to add to their comfort and benefit was sacrificed.

The Independence Women's Aid Society as usual sent numerous boxes and barrels to these companies while stationed at Dubuque and among the articles were the customary needlebooks, which elicited two very grateful acknowledgments in the form of letters from Lieut.-Col. Jed Lake and Lieut. W. G. Donnan.



They also at this time shipped five or six barrels of eggs, onions, and fruit, firkins of butter, etc., to the other companies at the front, and later, to the companies still stationed at Camp Franklin, pails of honey, butter, eggs, and some of their sporting friends sent nearly two hundred prairie chickens at one time. And these kindly services of the dear friends left at home helped to cheer and comfort the poor soldiers who were sacrificing all the joys and comforts of home life to fight for the Union. The accommodations at Camp Franklin were not completed when our soldiers arrived, barracks had not yet been constructed and everything was in confusion but the soldiers took hold with a will and soon had it in a state of completion and they were really enjoying camp fire life.

In this same issue of the Guardian with the above statement is one to the effect that the governor had decided to officer the Twenty-seventh Regiment as follows: Gilbert of Allamakee County, colonel; and Jed Lake, lieutenant colonel. At that time Colonel Lake had been appointed, by the President, as collector of Federal taxes for this Congressional District, but after consulting his friends, he concluded to decline the civil and accept the military position. He was always extremely fortunate in having offices thrust upon him and filled them creditably and conscientiously. His commission dated from the 4th of September, 1862, and he went immediately to join his regiment, the Twenty-seventh, stationed at Dubuque.

In the canvass of Buchanan County in September, 1862, the number of persons liable to military duty was 1,116 and 514 had volunteered and were in the Government service, 121 were exempt and 56 were aliens, who also were exempt.

At this time, Col. G. M. O'Brien of Dubuque, who had obtained authority from the War Department and the governor were attempting to raise an Irish regiment in this state, to serve in General Coreoran's brigade. John Sexton and Patrick McGavock of Independence were engaged in getting up a company for this regiment.

In Independence in September, 1862, appeared a paper called "The Crisis" issued from the Civilian office. It was a half sheet campaign paper edited by Messrs. Roszell, Leavitt, and Glynn, and devoted to the advocacy of Dennis A. Mahoney, who had been nominated by some of the democrats of this district for Congress. He was editor of the Dubuque Herald and was considered by all republicans and many democrats as a traitor. He had been arrested by a United States Marshal for treasonable conduct and was even at the time of his nomination incarcerated in the Federal Prison at Fort Lafayette. His nomination caused the most bitter animosity and disgust in the democratic party and really caused a disruption. He had openly in every possible way and through the medium of his paper opposed the administration, the war measures, and bitterly fought all republican and Unionist principles, placing the entire blame of the Rebellion on the opposing political party. The republican party had nominated Col. William B. Allison for Congress, who was elected. Politics were raging fast and furious in the county. It would seem that the graver issues of war, destruction and carnage would have entirely occupied all their thoughts but as usual in all public affairs politics was the predominating feature.

In an issue of the Guardian of September 23rd, was a statement that the Iowa Fifth for the first time had seen a slight speck of war in the battle of

Iuka. James Bell, a private, was captured and was then a prisoner of the "Seesh."

This notice by no means conveyed the real significance of that battle, which proved in later reports to have been a severe one. The regiment went into battle with 482 men, including officers, and had 219 killed and wounded. The Fifth Iowa, as might be expected, showed themselves as brave and gallant as the Ninth, and like them, were victorious. Company E, "the Independence Guards," our first company mustered into service, held a very dangerous and responsible position, and in every instance proved themselves worthy of the honor and pride the citizens of Buchanan County had manifested in them.

During the battle of Iuka, Company E deployed for four miles as skirmishers exposed to a murderous fire from the enemy and across open fields. Lieutenants Lewis and White, Sergeant Blonden, and Captain Lee all superintended different sections of the company and each did his part nobly, but to Captain Lee there is especial credit due, he, in spite of a terrific fire, was here, there, and everywhere, sustaining and encouraging his men. And when the company was ordered to charge bayonets, they went forward cheering and yelling and never for one moment wavered, until the enemy were overcome and routed. Lieutenant Lewis was severely wounded early in the engagement and John Towle, a printer by profession, and a young man of many brilliant qualities, was killed at the third or fourth volley. He had also been wounded but refused to go to the rear and rejoining the company in the second charge was killed. He was one of those noble heroes that deserve a niche in the halls of fame, whose heroism and self-sacrifice shall not be forgotten. Another of our Independence boys who distinguished himself in this battle was Lieut. W. S. Marshall, who was acting adjutant. He was in the thiek of the battle during the entire engagement and escaped without a scratch. In his official report, Col. C. L. Mathies complimented Lieutenant Marshall, with the rest of the officers, for their noble assistance and on the field the general personally complimented Company E. Lieutenant Lewis was sent home in charge of Private Peters but was unable to get any further than Keokuk, where Peters left him and came home. Mr. Jamieson went down the next week to see him and render any aid possible. He was in a bad condition from his wound but he was in the best of spirits. Soon after the battle of Iuka occurred the battle of Corinth in which thirteen Iowa troops were engaged. The Fifth Iowa was included in this but occupied an unimportant position.

Senator Hastings, of Buchanan County, had received the appointment of assistant surgeon of the Twenty-seventh Regiment. The Independence company, at Camp Franklin, were delighted and felt the Doctor would make a fine officer. There was an excursion to Camp Franklin on Thursday, September 18th; a large crowd, about 1,300 people, attended. It took two coaches and two engines pulling to accommodate the crowd and many had to ride in open cars with pine boards as seats.

They found the Twenty-seventh in excellent condition as to health, food and quarters. They were furloughed home by Colonel Gilbert, October 5, 1862, for five days before they should begin active service. They were assigned to General Pope's division and the adjutant general had selected them for frontier service in Jackson County, Minnesota, to operate against the Indians.

This was very distasteful to the regiment, but like all true soldiers, they did not murmur or complain. Sunday, October 12th, was the day selected for moving—and as scheduled, they started by boat for St. Paul.

They received all that was coming to them in the way of uniforms, guns, a month's advance pay and \$2.00 bounty from the Government and also the bounty from the county and were extremely happy over this fact—most of the money was sent home to Reverend Sampson to distribute. From both companies it aggregated about \$2,500. The soldiers were loud in their praise of the D. & S. C. R. R. Company, which put on an extra train and a fast one, and brought them out on Sunday, thereby giving them the benefit of another day's visit at home. Charles L. Coleman, a member of the Twenty-seventh, died at home on Tuesday night, October 7, 1862. He was taken sick at Camp Franklin and his father brought him home and he died the next day. He had only enlisted about seven weeks before.

The next we hear of the Twenty-seventh was that six companies, among them Captain Noble's, had been ordered to Mille Laes, a lake in Aiken County, about one hundred miles northwest of St. Paul, to accompany Government agents to transact business connected with the Indians. During their absence, the Twenty-seventh, with the rest of Pope's division, was transferred from the northern to the southern department and the four companies left Fort Snelling and departed immediately for Cairo, Illinois. The other six companies would follow as soon as they returned from the Mille Laes expedition. Captain Miller left his company at Dubuque and visited home on a furlough to recruit his health, which had been impaired by exposure; he only stayed one week, however. The extreme cold and exposure worked havoc in the camp of the Twenty-seventh and in one month's service they had lost three men by disease.

When the regiment went South, Benjamin Sutton and Morgan Boone, both of Independence, were left in a critical condition with typhoid fever at Fort Snelling. S. Abby was sick and had gone to Milwaukee on a furlough. The following week the death of young Sutton was announced. Colonel Lake on his return from the Mille Laes expedition, finding Morgan Boone convalescent, brought him and two other soldiers who were seriously sick. Walter H. Munger, of Company C, who was left at Anoka on the return march from the north, died at that place on the 8th of November. He received the kindest attention from the people of the little village, who took him to a private house, nursed him tenderly and turned out en masse to do honor to his remains.

“He was an honest, upright, truthful man, and no one has gone into the army from purer motives of patriotism, or a nobler sense of duty. When we last saw him at Dubuque, he was full of life, energy, and good feeling; but now, alas, he is in the silent tomb. May the sod press lightly upon his bosom.” We insert this tribute written of him by a friend, because should any friend or relative glance at this it might perchance stimulate them to emulate his worthy example and too, it well serves as a tribute to all the brave fellows who sacrificed themselves for their country's cause. Ex-Senator and Doctor Hastings of Company H received the appointment as assistant surgeon of the Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteers, a position he was eminently fitted to fill and his friends were delighted with his promotion.

On the way down the river from St. Paul, the boys of Captain Miller's company in appreciation of his worth as a man and as an officer presented him with a beautiful sword and sash, and a splendid Colt's revolver. They were valuable testimonials of respect and love for an officer who was ever alive to the wants of his men and untiring in providing for their comfort. Orderly Aaron Wilcox made a fine presentation speech, and Captain Miller accepted with one equally so. Doctor Sanborn, Lieutenant Whitney, and Lieutenant Donnan followed with short patriotic speeches. Word was received that Oliver Safford of Captain Lee's company had died at camp near Corinth on October 25th of typhoid pneumonia. He was spoken of in the highest terms. C. B. Kandy had been appointed sutler of the Twenty-seventh Regiment and left Independence November 18, 1862. The Soldiers' Aid Society were still doing fine work, and seemed never to tire or become discouraged with the constant, unceasing demands made upon them. When Colonel Lake returned to his regiment November 12, 1862, they sent about seven hundred pounds of "goodies" to gladden the hearts of the soldier boys.

On the evening of Wednesday, November 20th, Pope's army was ordered to report at Columbus, Ohio, to Brig.-Gen. T. O. Davis. They went by boat and arrived there at 9 P. M. of the same day. There they were ordered to report to General Sherman at Memphis, Tennessee. They were put in the Sixth Brigade under Brigadier-General Lauman, an Iowa man, and a fine officer. Quite a few of the men were sick and had been left behind to garrison Fort Pickering. Captain Miller and Lieutenant Donnan were among this number and had charge of the sick. Company E, Captain Lee's company, of the Fifth Iowa, was with General Grant's army then encamped near Oxford, Mississippi. Colonel Lake finally located the Independence boys on the march, after a great deal of searching (Grant having fifty regiments, of about fifty thousand men, in his army and all on the march). He wrote home how well they looked and acted and said they seemed to enjoy war as one of the necessities if not the luxuries of life. He found Lieutenant Marshall, who had been promoted to adjutant of the regiment, laboring through the mud (with Colonel Matthias). The Twenty-seventh was not long under the command of either Major-General Sherman or Brigadier-General Lauman, who were assigned to new commands, but again were ordered to report to Colonel Dubois at Holly Springs, Mississippi.

Early in December, 1862, it was announced from the state's chief executive office that Buchanan County was out of the "draft business," having furnished thirteen in excess of her quota, and ten more had enlisted since that report. Add to this the fifty or more who had enlisted with the regular army and a number who had enlisted with regiments outside the state and we conclude that Buchanan was exceedingly loyal.

Morgan Holmes, who had been the correspondent of the Civilian, with the Fifth Iowa and had been home for several weeks, was arrested as a deserter, by order from headquarters, and taken to Davenport by Captain Kelsey, recruiting officer at Independence. The Government kept diligently in pursuit of anyone they ever suspected of desertion. He would probably be sent to his regiment and court-martialed. Messrs. Jacob S. Travis, Johnson, Heyward, and Jacob S. Miller, members of the Grey Beard Regiment, then in camp at Muscatine, returned home December 18, on a furlough of a few days. They all

looked to be in excellent health and had a very soldierly bearing in their fine uniforms. Some time previous this regiment had been enlisted as a sort of Home Guard.

About the first of the year 1863 word was received that three more noble heroes of the Twenty-seventh had recently died from disease. John McBane and John Sanders died at Cairo where they had been left in the hospital in November, 1862, and William Lender died near Holly Springs. They were all fine young men and excellent soldiers.

There was a great deal of sickness in the Twenty-seventh; fifty-six at one time were in different hospitals, from Minnesota to Tennessee, and a report a little later from Tallahatchie, Mississippi, from Colonel Lake, said the regiment had only 630 men on duty, had left in Memphis 105 sick and convalescent, forty-five more were sick, and all along the river going down they had left some sick. James Nash, a member of the Thirteenth regulars, a resident of Buchanan County, was killed in a fight near Collierville, Mississippi.

Word from headquarters, January 13, 1863, was that the Fifth Iowa was in General Quimby's division, stationed near Memphis, guarding the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. January 9th, a letter stated that the Twenty-seventh had been in one of the two brigades which were in pursuit of General Forrest, but were too late to help General Sullivan defeat him at Red Mound. The Ninth Iowa, about which there had been little chronicled, were in the encounter at Vicksburg under Sherman. The Ninth were most of the time in reserve or supporting a battery until Monday afternoon when they were thrown forward to save our brigade from defeat. They advanced into a very dangerous position but miraculously escaped a terrible slaughter. Only six of the regiment were wounded and two missing and not one of Company C was hurt. Captain Wright and Lieutenant Little both had behaved most courageously at their posts of duty. General Thayer had given the Ninth Regiment praise for their conduct.

As a bit of diversity from the horrors of war, we read a unique direction on a letter which passed through the Independence postoffice in January, 1863: "Postmaster, loyal if you be,—Down in Memphis, Tennessee.—Please hand this, safe, to Capt. Lee, who has the command of Company E, Of Iowa's Fifth Infantry. In the Brigade of Gen. Quimby, And you will be blessed by God and me—Blessed to all Eternity. But if you are trieky in the least, Abe will call you to the East, Then comes Satan to your cell, And says, 'P. M., there's room in h—l.' "

The army regulations, in regard to furloughs, were becoming more and more strict. Captain Wright was court-martialed for coming home and remaining a few days without a permit, but the decision of the court entirely vindicated him, for he was in command at the battle of Vicksburg, as we have previously stated, and soon thereafter was in the battle at Arkansas Post, where the Ninth, as usual, seemed to have its proverbial good luck. For although about one thousand of the army were killed, the loss to the Ninth Regiment was only a few wounded while Company C escaped without a scratch, and every man kept his place throughout the entire battle.

Nearly every week some of the soldier boys were returning, being discharged from the service for physieal disability. The last week in January, 1863, Howard Stutson, Clinton Losure, Warren Munson, N. J. Boone, of Company II,

Twenty-seventh Regiment, all were discharged, and George Kirkham had been discharged at Cairo, but was still there waiting for his papers. J. L. Loomis, who had joined the Forty-second Illinois, was in the very thickest of the fight at Murfreesboro—where the Forty-second did much grand and glorious work—going into the fight with 300 strong and fully one-half were killed and wounded, but Mr. Loomis escaped injury of any kind.

The Fifth at this time were stationed near Germantown, Tennessee, fifteen miles from Memphis, guarding the railroad. Adjutant Marshall had been promoted some time. C. H. Waggoner was now quartermaster—both with the rank of first lieutenant.

On January 31, 1863, C. J. Reed, a member of Company E, of the Fifth Iowa, who had been the talented correspondent of the Guardian (and whose letters we have often quoted), also correspondent for the New York Times and Missouri Democrat, returned home discharged on account of physical disability. He had been incapable of active duty in his regiment for a long time.

Another soldier was brought home dead—a boy by the name of Cox from Fairbank. He was a member of the Sixth Iowa Cavalry and died in camp at Davenport. Then later came the death of Jacob Glass, of Company H, son of Martin Glass of Buchanan County, a noble-hearted man and one universally respected. Along in 1863 the feeling of bitterness and animosity between the administration sympathizers and supporters and the antis or Copperheads, as they were called, was at white heat, even in Buchanan County—there seem to have been many southern sympathizers, anti-Lincoln, anti-war, anti-administration, and more extreme in degree, anti-abolitionists. It was a most strained and critical condition for the poor soldiers at the front who were there sacrificing all the joys and comforts of life, enduring all the hardships of war, exposed to all conditions of weather, half clothed and half fed, under the strain and fatigue of long weary marches and actual warfare and subjected to the ravages of both battle and disease and all for the purpose of defending the country and their own and their neighbors' hearthstones of liberty. And to feel that they did not have the hearty and unanimous support of their own countrymen was, indeed, a bitter realization. To voice their feelings, the Twenty-seventh Iowa held a general ratification meeting in front of Colonel Gilbert's tent (February 12, 1863) to adopt resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the regiment with regard to the Copperheads of the North. A lengthy and detailed series of resolutions composed by the field officers about Jackson were read and adopted, also a series of which Lieutenant-Colonel Lake was sponsor and one of Colonel Gilbert's design. Both were adopted without a dissenting voice. They expressed their opinion plainly in regard to these Copperhead individuals who were so numerous in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, and ranked them with the rebels, as infamous, traitorous destroyers of our nation. Not only were the soldiers' letters full of consternation over the attitude and influence of the Copperheads at the North, but some of them were becoming sorely tried at the inactivity and treatment they were receiving; many were becoming fearfully disgruntled at their higher officers and the "powers that be," blaming them for not allowing the soldiers to forage whatever, wherever and whenever they pleased, and accusing these officers of showing partiality to the Secesh, or else having been bribed,

because they would not allow their men to steal or destroy everything along their paths.

Other letters were equally strong in commending their officers.

In a letter from the Twenty-seventh of this same date, February 12th, we read that Captain Miller had been sick for some time and First Lieut. O. Whitney had been in command and made a fine officer—Lieutenant Donnan had been for some time at brigade headquarters as acting aide-de-camp on Acting Brigadier General Dunham's staff. He was well liked and liked the office, too. Orderly Wilcox had injured his foot with an ax and Sergeant Smysler was acting as orderly for Colonel Dunham. Soon, however, the brigade organization under Colonel Dunham was dissolved and they had all returned to camp with the exception of George Fuller, who had been detailed as clerk at district headquarters for General Sullivan. Surgeon D. C. Hastings had been ordered to Young's Point to report to Major-General Grant. Company H had sixty-nine men present, fifty of whom were reported as effective men; Company C had sixty-nine present, fifty of whom were effective; Company I had eighty-six in all and Company G had ninety-two.

As an entire company of cavalry was not raised in this county, it is difficult to keep track of the many volunteers from this county who joined outside cavalry troops or even to acquire an accurate list of their names. We have previously mentioned different recruiting officers being stationed in this county for the purpose of enlisting recruits. Many of these were for cavalry companies and each one got some volunteers. The First, Fourth and Sixth Iowa Cavalry all had representatives from this county; the First probably had the greatest number, forty-eight leaving on Thursday, September 4, 1862, per rail for Dubuque. Their names are as follows:

W. H. McGill, Alanson Sager, William Foote, C. Poecock, Dewit Kelley, E. Lotterdale, D. Brown, C. Edgecomb, C. McGill, F. W. Paine, S. H. Rose, T. Flemming, J. Wentworth, H. C. Skinner, P. B. Turner, J. West, A. Palmer, Otter C. Anton, W. H. Baker, R. Kelley, H. P. Jones, J. Wadley, W. George, I. C. Jones, Ludebeck Long, F. Weik, W. G. Cummings, Levi S. Drunkwalter, John H. Williams, Charles Porter, Oscar Daniels, E. H. McMillen, Lyman Ayrault, Edgar Mills, M. D. Carpenter, Edward Brown, J. S. Thompson, Loy Hutchins, Howard Hall, E. L. Chiekenbrend, G. Ellworth, H. Babcock, John Furman, Stephen Burk, — Hibby, George Carr, John Boehline, George H. Davis. The Fourth had between twenty-five and thirty from here.

In March, 1863, the Sixth Iowa Cavalry, which had been encamped at Davenport and in which Buchanan County had representatives, had been ordered to Sioux City by General Pope to protect the frontier against Indians. News had also come of the death of Lieut. Alexander B. Lewis in a hospital at Keokuk on February 25, 1863. It came as a great shock to his friends here, because just the week previous letters from his company at Memphis rejoiced in the assurance that their beloved and esteemed officer would be with them soon. Among the thousands of the noblest and best who had sacrificed themselves upon the altar of their country no one was more worthy than Lieutenant Lewis. He was a most extraordinary man, possessing qualities of mind and heart which attracted to him a host of friends, and those added to his mental abilities, industry, application and ambition would have insured him a successful career as a

lawyer, the profession he had chosen. But when the first call came for volunteers, he was almost the first to enlist in this county, and went into the ranks as a private soldier under Captain Lee. He soon, however, attracted the attention of Colonel Worthington, who made him sergeant-major of his regiment, the Fifth Iowa, and afterwards, on the death of Lieutenant Jordon, insisted on having him commissioned as first lieutenant of Company E, to the extreme pleasure of the company—they thought he would replace the noble friend they had lost in Lieutenant Jordan. At the victorious battle of Inka, fought on September 19, 1862, where the Fifth Regiment made itself an honored name, he received a dangerous wound in the hip, and from that time until his death on the 25th of February, 1863, he was confined to a bed of intense suffering. He tried to get home the last of October, but could get no further than Keokuk, and there for over five months, bearing his suffering with a calmness and courage only possible to a noble, strong-hearted hero, he at last was relieved from duty and promoted to a far superior rank in the great army of the eternal realms.

The love and esteem with which he was held, and the appreciation of his many virtues and capabilities were expressed in the beautiful tributes of friends and soldier companions and in the resolutions of different societies passed in honor of him.

Captain Wright of Company C of the Ninth Iowa had returned home on Friday, March 20, 1863, having resigned his commission on account of ill health. We have previously mentioned his illness, and now he was forced to this end, much as he regretted it. Sergt. Robert Bain of Company C, Ninth Iowa, was killed on the 30th of March in the siege of Vicksburg. He was a fine young man and an excellent soldier, and his death was deeply regretted by all who knew him.

The officers of the Ninth voluntarily and cordially expressed their sincere appreciation of him and their extreme regret at his loss in fitting resolutions. His company also adopted resolutions of appreciation, sympathy and regret at his departure. Captain Wright was naturally of a frail constitution and had endured the hardships and deprivations of army life for eighteen months without murmur or complaint, but it had gradually demoralized his health. He had been a faithful and conscientious soldier and a thoughtful and considerate officer.

William A. Brace, a resident of Buchanan County and a member of the Seventh Iowa Cavalry, had been made recruiting officer and was stationed in Independence in March, 1863.

In March, 1863, Governor Kirkwood issued a sanitary circular with letters of Mrs. Whittenmyer, head of the Iowa Sanitary Commission, stating the terrible conditions of our soldiers—the prevalence of scurvy, the fearful ravages which it and other diseases induced by the absence of a vegetable diet were making, and begging people to send vegetables quickly. Under this appeal of the governor Quasqueton sent a couple of loads of different things and Doctor Warne shipped from Independence 16 barrels of potatoes, 4 barrels onions, 1 barrel of eggs, 1 firkin of pickles, firkin cabbage, and a large box filled with wines, jellies, pickles, horseradish, corn, etc.



Doctor Warne and his wife were among the indefatigable workers in the interests of the soldiers and deserved and received the soldiers' grateful appreciation. At a meeting of the Alton Union Club, held at the Minton School-house, in Fairbank Township, on March 26, 1863, resolutions were adopted condemning the bitter partisan spirit which was becoming so dangerously vindictive and malicious and eulogizing and indorsing the President, the administration and the war policies, and urging upon all loyal, true Americans, without regard to party, to unite in a supreme effort to save the Union.

All through the county patriotic societies, churches and school districts were participating in such proceedings. In Independence, Winthrop, Quasqueton, Hazleton and all the small communities copperhead and Union meetings were frequently held, often at the same time, and the bitter feeling was growing instead of abating. Almost every week a Union meeting was held in the court-house at Independence and a copperhead or democratic club meeting at Allen's Hall, with speakers of note to make the addresses. Often their meetings were conducted as a debate. This feeling even permeated the hearts of the gentler sex. A party of Union women whose husbands, fathers and sons and brothers were in the Union army talked of ducking a woman who lived on Spring Creek who was persistently hurrahing for Jeff Davis. The presence of her husband probably saved her. These loyal women would not tolerate such open treason in their midst.

The President appointed Thursday, April 30, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer, and the churches were to observe it with Union services.

Captain Miller of the Twenty-seventh returned home Saturday, April 25, 1863, in a very feeble state of health, suffering from a spinal injury which he received in the service, and, being unable to continue, he was honorably discharged. He was a fine soldier; patriotic, honorable and kind to his men. He brought home with him \$5,272 from members of his company and \$242 from Captain Noble's company. Reverend Sampson also received \$3,647.25 from Captain Noble's company. Mr. Blair of Quasqueton brought \$1,000 from members of the First Cavalry and various other sums sent home, so in all, probably eleven thousand dollars must have been received in this county from just two regiments. The soldiers evidently saved their money and remembered their families at home.

The next report from the front was on June 9, 1863, from Major Marshall of the Fifth Iowa, which had been in three engagements on May 14, 16 and 22, in the vicinity of Vicksburg, one at Jackson, one at Champion Hills, and the other at Vicksburg, and lost, in killed and wounded, 125 men. The list of killed and wounded of Company E was as follows:

At Jackson, May 14: Corp. William Codling, wounded severely.

At Champion Hills, May 16:

Killed—Sergt. Joseph H. McWilliams, Corp. John Jarrett, Corp. Castleton Leatherman, Privates James Bell, Levi Overhulser.

Wounded—Corp. W. P. Morse, slightly; Privates John Davis, severely; A. J. Francis, dangerously; George Gray, slightly; J. McCray, severely, and died some weeks afterwards; Julius F. Phelps, severely; S. A. Reed, slightly; W. H.

Sayre, slightly; John Shea, severely; H. C. Sprague, slightly; T. C. Pucket, slightly; R. Whit, slightly; W. Crawford, died a few weeks afterwards.

At Vicksburg, May 22:

Wounded—William H. Crawford, severely; H. W. Snider, slightly.

Captain Lee and Lieutenant Peek miraculously escaped injury, though with their command through the entire battle, cheering the boys on to victory or to a hallowed grave. The Captain said to them at the Battle of Champion Hills, "Boys, follow me," and truly they did, every last man of them. Scarcely a one but showed an honorable mark, either in his flesh or clothes, and it was wonderful how many narrow escapes there were. Indeed, it was a miracle that so many lived to tell the tales of suffering and privation, of their recent hard marches, hard battles and hard fare.

Capt. E. C. Little sent home a list of the killed and wounded of Company C of the Ninth Iowa, which also was in the Vicksburg encounter. All the wounded were in hospitals at Champion Hill.

The killed were: Lieut. H. P. Wilbur, Corp. L. A. Persall, Private George Freyberthanser.

Wounded—Capt. E. Little, Sergt. J. M. Elson, Corp. Reuben Rouse, Alpheus Losey, H. H. Ford, William Willey.

All were in the hospital at Memphis, Tennessee. John Ford had his right foot amputated, but there were no other dangerous wounds. The Captain had a couple of flesh wounds, but made light of them. The Ninth Iowa had again distinguished itself and honored the state by its deeds of valor at Vicksburg, but the victory cost dearly—many of our noble, gallant heroes were sacrificed to that end.

Martin K. Hallock of Company E died of congestive fever at Milliken's Bend and Sergt. Frederick Spragg of the Twenty-seventh died in the regimental hospital at Jackson, Tennessee. His death was sudden and unexpected.

Captain Little came home on a furlough Friday, June 12, 1863, and went to his home at Littleton. He told a graphic tale of the Vicksburg battle. Having been wounded, he lay on the field with the bullets falling thick as hail around him, some grazing his body, one entering the flesh of his hip, but not injuring the bone. There he lay until darkness closed down upon them and hostilities were abandoned, and finally his men found him and carried him from the field. His injuries were painful but not serious. Captain Little was of very youthful appearance, and at that time was but little over eighteen years. He entered the army as a private, but had been promoted to the captaincy of Company C and was capable in every way to fill so responsible a command. He was anxious to and expected to return to his company in two weeks.

Captain Lee wrote home of the death of Capt. Thomas Blonden, formerly a member of Company E, Ninth Iowa. He was killed at Milliken's Bend on June 6, 1863. He had applied for and obtained the captaincy of a company of negro troops organized in General Grant's department and these negro troops were attacked by a considerable force of rebels at Milliken's Bend and after a desperate encounter these succeeded in driving back their assailants. Captain Blonden was shot in the breast while gallantly leading his troops. He lived but a few hours and, though perfectly aware of his condition, calmly submitted to

his fate. He was a noble, whole-souled man, who performed his duty well and died as valiantly and courageously as ever a soldier did.

Another letter from the Twenty-seventh tells of their skirmishes with the guerrillas, but no casualties had taken place. John Buck of Independence had accidentally shot himself in the leg, shattering the bone and compelling amputation. It was feared the wound would prove fatal.

Judge Tabor, who had been appointed fourth auditor of the treasury, had at that time been performing his duties but two weeks and was perfectly familiar and more efficient with the office than some heads of bureaus who had grown gray and gouty in the service, and still had time to deliver a speech at the headquarters of the Union Leagues at Washington on the 23d of June to a large audience. He spoke for two hours to a cordial, appreciative audience of Union men and women. He also was the Fourth of July orator of the Columbian College Hospital at Washington, District of Columbia, and his earnestness and eloquence captivated his audiences.

Independence was preparing to celebrate the Fourth and some mean, contemptible individuals (probably copperheads, so the opposition said) had stolen the town cannon so as to prevent the firing of salutes. This was the second offense of that nature. Also the ropes to flagstaves had been cut in several places around town.

But evidently a cannon was obtained in time for celebrating, because at day-break "the deep boom and clear ring" of a new cannon startled the town from repose and made the copperheads feel how perfectly futile their meanness in stealing the old cannon had proven, in the way of a lessening Union thunder. This started the grandest success in the way of a demonstration that ever had been achieved in Independence. By 9 o'clock the delegations from the extreme parts of the county began filing through the main streets, headed by martial music and with flags and banners flying. From Hazleton, Littleton and the north came a delegation of sixty wagons; from Quasqueton, Sumner and the south came one of seventy-three wagons; from Winthrop, Spring Creek, Jefferson and various other points came smaller delegations, all with music and banners. Fully five thousand people were in attendance.

At 11 o'clock the procession was formed at the courthouse by the efficient marshal, Lieutenant Scott, and his assistants, and marched to the grove near the Methodist church, where seats had been provided, and there enjoyed a fine program of the usual Fourth of July kind—music, speaking, reading of the Declaration, and an excellent oration by Hon. Henry A. Wiltse. Then followed a most sumptuous and bounteous dinner. They had 400 feet of table room and fed over nine hundred people. The farmer and town women vied with each other in their generosity and excellence of their donations and there was a large amount of provisions left and this was distributed to needy soldiers' families and the poor. After the dinner toasts were responded to, twenty in number, and yet there was no lagging in enthusiasm to the end.

The celebration ended with a fine exhibition of fireworks. The Independence cadets and three bands were part of the procession. Could we ever nowadays get up such a display? A fine arch was erected at the entrance to the dinner inscribed to "Iowa's Soldiers in the Field," and "Iowa's Departed Heroes," and the proceeds from this dinner was expended for some patriotic cause, prob-

ably to buy necessities for the Iowa Sanitary Commission, and we note they cleared \$277.49 and had heavy expense. It does one's heart good to read about one of these old-fashioned, genial, patriotic, spontaneous celebrations, where everybody is interested and all are welcome.

A great celebration was indulged in at Independence on July 6th, upon hearing the glorious news that General Meade and his Army of the Potomac had achieved a signal victory over General Lee. The wildest enthusiasm was displayed by the citizens, cheer after cheer greeted the reading of the war bulletins and soon the cannon was thundering forth a deep boom of triumph. Directly a big keg of lager was on public tap at the postoffice, and not a man was slighted, but all, particularly the copperheads, were made to drink to General Meade and his brave soldiers. A packing box (dry goods box) was procured and one after another of the citizens was called upon to speechify. Then at night another glorification was indulged in. Thirty-five guns brought out nearly the entire population on the green in front of the postoffice, the band was out and a fine choir sang patriotic airs. There was a fine spirit manifested and a general good fellowship. Party differences were forgotten and everybody participated in the celebration. Speeches were made by Messrs. Holdridge, Hart, Boggs, Fulton, Woodward, Reed, Bryant, Smith, Hedges, Leavitt, Roszell, S. P. Adams, Esq., of Dubuque, McCorcle of Minnesota. These men were representative of both parties and this united feeling was a happy result.

Then again when the news of the fall of Vicksburg reached Independence on Wednesday night, July 8th, it caused a renewal of the jubilation indulged in by the citizens over the victory of the Army of the Potomac. The cannon was brought out, lager flowed freely and eggnog was handed around by the bucket full. Very sedate gentlemen became very noisy and nearly every loyal man in town was transformed into a "high old boy." The whole of Union and Brewer blocks, including the Guardian office and the postoffice were brilliantly illuminated. The band was out, speeches were made by some dozen citizens, patriotic songs were sung by the excellent Glee Club of Independence. After the meeting, the young folks improvised a dance, in which the old folks were not loth to indulge. Every loyal person shouted, hurrahed, laughed, danced, or sung, or did something to manifest his joy. It was a time long to be remembered and deserves a place in history.

Again the announcement of the surrender of Port Hudson and the opening of the Mississippi called forth another demonstration of joy from our loyal citizens. It was honored by a salute of thirty-five guns.

Letters from the home soldiers in the Fifth and Ninth Iowa in the Army of the Northwest, under Grant, which helped achieve the surrender of Vicksburg, with its 30,000 prisoners, 60,000 arms, over one hundred pieces of artillery and seventeen generals—one lieutenant-general, four major-generals, twelve brigadier-generals—were burning with enthusiasm and jubilation over the victory, and the Twenty-seventh Regiment encamped at Moscow, Tennessee, were equally joyous and their army celebrated with the firing of ten or twelve shots from their artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lake, who had been commander at La Grange, had just been relieved and returned to his regiment at Moscow. All of Company C's men who had been detailed in the various departments had returned with the

exception of Lieutenant Hemenway, who was acting assistant adjutant-general at brigade headquarters, vice E. R. Wiley, who had been promoted to major in a colored regiment. Baker of Company C had been made captain of Company A, and Glass, first lieutenant of the same company.

There were other affairs being celebrated in a like manner with a keg of lager on tap for public consumption. This seems a strange procedure for an Independence community, but that was in the days before temperance was so universal and so popular as it is now.

A notice in the papers of July 21, 1863, shows there was no lack of patriotic enthusiasm. All persons in favor of forming a military company in our county were respectfully requested to meet at the courthouse on Thursday eve.

Another notice to the effect that the dearth of labor consequent upon the drain of young men in the army had made harvest hands so scarce that they had raised wages up to \$2.00 per day and every available person, old, young, male and female, had gone into the harvest fields.

Everything was correspondingly high during war times, and a revenue tax was imposed upon all legal papers; marriage licenses, mortgages, bonds, deeds, leases and everything upon which a tax could be levied came under the ban.

Lieutenant Scott had joined the Eighth Iowa Cavalry and was commissioned second lieutenant recruiting officer stationed at Independence. One month's advance pay, besides a \$2.00 premium for enlisting and pay commenced from the date of enlistment and each recruit was to have thirty days' furlough after enlistment, very soon brought almost a full company which reported at Davenport, August 21, 1863. Newspapers printed on wall paper by the Confederates at Vicksburg were sent home as souvenirs by our soldiers. The besieged army was subsisting on mule meat and even the canines were threatened if the siege still continued and it was apt to, for at that time General Pemberton in an address to his soldiers said he would not surrender so long as a mule or dog remained whereon the men could subsist.

The President had appointed Thursday, August 6th, as another day of thanksgiving, praise and prayer, on account of our "recent victories," which was duly observed in Independence and other towns in the county.

At this time Buchanan County boys who joined the Iowa cavalry were off on an Indian expedition at Camp McLaren, Lake Traverse, then later at Cheyenne.

Captain Lee came home on furlough, and while here he made a speech at the courthouse on Saturday evening, August 22d, 1863, to a packed house. He was a staunch democrat and hater of abolition when he went into the war, but his views had entirely changed and he was now a firm believer in abolition, the Emancipation Proclamation and the war policies.

Another draft was to be made on the Third Congressional District and the first class liable to draft, between the ages of twenty and thirty-five, numbered 12,421, of which Buchanan County was responsible for 673.

In September, 1863, H. Williams of Captain Lee's company, who had been detailed at Keokuk, had been commissioned to raise a company in the First Colored Regiment of Iowa, then being organized at Davenport. He had recruited Edward Herndon, commonly known as "Captain Lee's Contraband," whom

we have written of before. This negro had educated himself in the simple branches and could now read, write and spell very well.

There were two other ex-slaves in the county who were subject and anxious to enlist, but who had proven so valuable to their present employers that they were using every means and inducement to persuade them to stay here. The militia company whose contemplated organization we mentioned some time past was perfected by the final selection of officers on Saturday, September 12th, 1863. All the commissioned and some of the non-commissioned officers had seen service. Following is a list of the officers and privates:

## OFFICERS

Captain, C. F. Herrick. First Lieutenant, T. C. Nelson. Second Lieutenant, C. J. Reed. First Sergeant, T. J. Marinus. Second Sergeant, George Kint. Third Sergeant, James B. Donnan. Fourth Sergeant, Ebenezer Little. Fifth Sergeant, E. L. Frizelle. First Corporal, M. W. Hurlburt. Second Corporal, Frank Sherwood. Third Corporal, George Patterson. Fourth Corporal, Orrin M. Bunce. Company Clerk, L. W. Hart.

## PRIVATES

M. V. Adams, Thomas Abbott, J. A. Abbott, Jed Brockway, Jos. A. Bush, William Beardsley, G. B. Bouck, C. H. Bessey, N. A. Bassett, W. H. Bush, Isaac H. Carter, J. H. Campbell, T. F. Curtis, J. M. Chandler, H. S. Cole, Joseph Evers, Reuben C. Eldridge, I. S. Freeman, H. Fourtner, Harrison Fuller, John D. C. Garrison, W. H. Godfrey, F. H. Griswold, Fayette Gillett, A. Gillett, S. L. Greeley, Simeon Hale, L. P. Haradan, D. D. Holdridge, S. C. Horton, G. W. Hardenbrock, H. R. Hunter, H. W. Humes, L. O. Hillman, L. C. Jaques, W. H. Kent, George L. King, E. B. King, C. P. Kingsley, George T. King, J. F. Lyon, John Leslie, Charles T. Montfort, O. Marquette, J. F. McKenzie, Sr., Wm. H. H. Morse, J. H. Morgan, J. F. McKenzie, Jr., E. A. North, George Netcott, O. M. Pond, H. G. Palmer, S. M. Palmer, William Palmer, Jacob Rieh (P. M.), S. E. A. Rissley, E. A. Sheldon, Wm. C. Squier, W. H. Stanley, George Schermerhorn, John Siewert, M. G. Taylor, C. B. Voorhees, C. R. Wallace, W. S. Wallace.

A large Union mass meeting was held in Independence, September, 1863, and was the largest affair of its kind ever held in the county up to that time. Senator Grimes was the drawing card. Delegations from all over the county came in with bands, flags, and banners, as they did for the Fourth of July celebration.

Politics was waxing fast and furious and between the county papers there was much scathing criticism and bitter denunciation, which although it may be unpleasant, nevertheless is mighty interesting. Candidates for offices were stumping the county with much enthusiasm and no cessation of labors (quite different from the present quiet methods employed for political campaigning). Meetings were held in every available public place, groves, schoolhouses and picnics. Party demonstrations and torchlight processions were numerous. The Union party was particularly active, and had a large and enthusiastic following in this county.

Likewise the Democratic Club or Copperheads were holding forth, but their following here was much smaller than the opposition, although equally as enthusiastic and strenuous.

Lorenzo Moore was one of their big chiefs and their principal orator. He never lost an opportunity to indulge in bombastic vitriolic oratory and expressed himself freely and fearlessly in criticising the administration and its war policies. O. H. P. Roszell, Leavitt, Albert Clark, Sanford Clark, S. S. Allen, Henry Bright, E. W. Purdy, John Smyser, also were prominent adherents of this political creed.

Captain Miller, although he had denounced the Copperheads and their treasonable attitude, yet affiliated himself with them and accepted a nomination for treasurer for this county, but in his letter of acceptance he explains his position and fully vindicates himself. Claims to be a Union democrat and believes in supporting the Government. Later he challenges the editor of the Guardian to enlist. To an unbiased mind, it appears that the bitter opposition, wrangling, and animosity between the democrats and republicans, or the "Copperheads" and "Union" men, as they were usually termed, was not a matter of principle, but rather of party fealty—pure, unadulterated political partisanship. Not for home, country, family or friend can a real, dyed-in-the-wool politician sacrifice his loyalty to his party. It seems strange, but it is a proven statement, that men generally are more devoted to their political party than to any other civil institution. Celebrations similar to those held after victorious war news was received were indulged in after election: also an oyster supper was participated in. The soldiers were allowed to vote in camp and their vote counted.

In letters from Colonel Lake, of the Twenty-seventh Regiment, then (September, 1863), encamped at Little Rock, Arkansas, and various places thereabout, he reported three more Buchanan County boys dead—Thomas Magill of Buffalo Grove, Isaac Gill and William Minton. Thomas Magill was killed in a skirmish with the enemy. Isaac Gill, of Independence, died in a hospital at Brownsville, and William Minton, a member of Company C, Twenty-seventh, died at Moscow, Tennessee. All were fine young fellows and died doing their duty.

The Aid Society of Independence elected for the ensuing year the following officers: President, Mrs. N. T. Bemis; vice president, Mrs. M. P. Woods; secretary, Mrs. H. O. Jones; treasurer, Miss Carrie Curtis. Mrs. P. C. Wilcox was treasurer, Mrs. A. J. Bowley, vice president, and Miss Gillispie, secretary. This society, never weary of well doing, kept constantly at their good work, their last shipment, in October, 1863, was seventeen barrels and a large box of canned fruit, all donated by the liberal, patriotic citizens of the county.

Lieut. J. P. Sampson was at this time detailed on the signal corps, an important position, and S. A. Reed was lieutenant of a company in the Twelfth Louisiana (colored), being promoted to this commission over hundreds of other applicants.

Orton's circus was in Independence in October, 1863, and he generously gave the entire proceeds of one performance to the Soldiers' Aid Society, which materially increased their funds. Orton was an Independence man and used to winter his show here.

The Ninth Iowa was again in action, near Cherokee Station, on the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, on the 21st of October, 1863. They formed part of

Sherman's advance and were attacked by rebels. These were only skirmishes, no battle of consequence resulted.

Early in November, 1863, Lincoln issued another call for 300,000 troops. Iowa's quota was 8,910 and Governor Kirkwood was urging volunteers' service before the draft would be made on January 5th, 1864. The Third District was required to furnish 1,754 and Buchanan County, 96. It was the intention that these recruits raised would fill up the old regiments, and every possible inducement was offered to attract volunteers and hasten the recruiting.

The bounty money had been raised from \$300 to \$402, and a month's extra pay to those who would re-enlist (the \$2.00 was the premium money), and \$302 bounty and premium money and one month's pay to every new recruit, and every volunteer would be allowed to select his own regiment.

In December, 1863, the citizens began holding war meetings again, all through the county, probably in an effort to revive enthusiasm and interest in the cause, which had suffered somewhat of a reaction, but was soon rampant again, and patriotic sentiment and loyalty was kindled anew.

It was reported that Maj. W. S. Marshall of the Fifth Iowa, and six members of Company E, had been taken prisoners in the recent engagement of Sherman's division, which had been in the hottest of the fight at Missionary Ridge and suffered severely. They met the enemy at the point of the bayonet and routed them completely. No list of casualties had been received and the people here at home were in dread suspense.

Later this report about Major Marshall and his men was confirmed when Reverend Mr. Boggs received letters from Major Marshall, who with his men, were taken prisoners at Chattanooga. He arrived at Richmond on the 8th of December, 1863, and was confined in Libby Prison, but the privates were sent to some other place of confinement.

Those of Company E who were prisoners were: Messrs. Morse, Whitman, Stewart, Prickett, Sayers and Whit. The remarkable escape of Madison Bryan, a member of Company E, was told. Major Marshall and his men were completely surrounded by the rebels and at his command had laid down their arms, but Madison, when he beheld the hated ensign of secession waving over his head could stand it no longer, so volubly expressing himself to the effect that "he didn't enlist to fight under such a rag," he started off at a pace that bid fair to distance all pursuers, and although a whole volley was fired at him, twenty balls penetrating his hat, coat, pants, and even his boots, yet none of them drew blood, and he made good his escape. This tale has a moral that sometimes it is better to run than fight an enemy. "He who fights and runs away, lives to fight another day."

The rebels graciously permitted private supplies to be sent to the prisoners. Friends at home availed themselves of this privilege and sent things to them at intervals, which although they seldom ever reached their intended destination, probably did some poor soldier good. They were treating the prisoners much more humanely now, and had ceased the barbarities which characterized the treatment of Union prisoners at Richmond, a few months since. The railroad companies generously carried donations to the soldiers for half fare, and the express companies too were generous in that way.



The last recruiting was going on slowly, although \$1,400 had been raised by a subscription to be divided equally among the recruits as soon as the necessary fourteen were secured, probably owing to the fact that the \$1,400 was not to be distributed until the entire number were recruited. Quasqueton had fulfilled all her obligations in this matter and had given each recruit a purse of \$50; this sum was raised by the citizens of that town alone. A premium of \$15 was given to any person recruiting a soldier. In January, 1864, notice was given that many of the soldiers whose time had expired had re-enlisted, and they were expected home to recruit until spring. The Ninth Regiment, like many others in the state, had enlisted almost to the man. These re-enlistments had a tendency to inspire confidence in the new recruits.

Companies E and C of the Fifth and Ninth Iowa Infantry, who had been in the service three years, were expected home about the first of the year, and great plans were being made to give them a royal reception and a most pleasant stay while at home.

The previous call of the President for 300,000 troops had been raised to 500,000, to enlist for three years' service or during the war, and if they were not forthcoming by the 10th of March, were to be drafted. The \$400 premium expired the 1st of March, so speedy volunteering was urged in order to obtain the premium. This, of course, again raised Buchanan's quota. Governor Kirkwood, on the 22d of February, issued an embargo on all persons leaving the state prior to the 10th of March, on account of the draft to be enforced. Many were flocking to the newly discovered gold fields in Montana, Idaho and at Pike's Peak, and this embargo by the governor greatly disconcerted their plans. The Unionists in Independence accused the democrats, some of whom the gold craze had ensnared and who had made their plans to go West, of embracing this as an excuse to escape military duty.

Captain Noble had resigned and returned home the 1st of February, 1864. He was obliged to resign on account of ill health, a fact which everyone regretted, because he had been a very efficient and valuable officer. It was a noticeable fact that most of Buchanan County's captains were compelled to resign their commands and return home.

Another death, that of Mr. Holdridge, brother of Representative Holdridge, occurred in Independence, in February, 1864. He was not a member of the Independence companies, however.

The long-expected day and hour when "Lo, the conquering hero comes," arrived. For days the citizens of Independence had been on the tip-toe of expectation over the anticipated home-coming of the soldiers of the Fifth and Ninth, who were coming home to recruit, before the renewal of duties.

All sorts of rumors had been prevalent as to the date of their arrival, but at last telegraphic dispatch settled the question, with the assurance that Company C, of the Ninth, would be in Independence on Saturday, February 13, 1864.

Everyone was wild with joy. They left Huntsville, Alabama, reached Corinth, Tennessee, on the 10th, and arrived in Dubuque on the 12th. Here they met a glorious reception from the citizens, who prepared a bounteous breakfast, dinner and supper for them, and turned over to them hospitalities of the city.

Doctor Warne of this city had gone down to escort them home and, although the time was exceedingly short, our citizens planned a dinner for them at Morse's Hall immediately upon their arrival. Old feuds and party animosities were buried and forgotten in the engulfling concern of giving the "boys" a grand reception. Harmony and good feeling and mutual pride and eagerness to assist in the soldiers' welcome prevailed. The winter atmosphere was warm and springlike, great crowds from all over the county were in town and everyone was happy and busy. Everything augured a splendid affair.

The town was decorated with flags and mottoes, the town flag was suspended from Morse's Hall to the bell frame, a clever one suspended from the Guardian office bore the following motto, "Honor to whom honor is due. Iowa Ninth, Bully for you." Mr. Hegee heralded the return of the noble veterans at the depot with a volley from his ever ready and responsive artillery, to which the Yanks aboard the train responded, "Lay down, the Rebs are firing on our flanks." Such a reception and such a banquet are not soon forgotten by the recipients of the favors. The boys in blue formed in line and marched to the music of the band with military precision from the depot to the hall, in spite of the disregard of military etiquette and the onrush and confusion of the enthusiastic crowd. These gallant soldiers, imbred to the task of overcoming every obstacle, commenced a heavy onslaught upon the vulnerable array of gastronomical fortifications and kept up a continuous battle with these elements until they were forced to a complete and unconditional surrender. That the soldiers thoroughly relished and enjoyed their dinner was satisfaction complete. At the close of the dinner Captain Little extended the thanks of himself and his company to the generous citizens who had so royally entertained them, after which three cheers were given for Company C, the Ninth Regiment and the Union. Captain Little had unexpectedly accompanied Company C home, having but a short time previous rejoined the company, and in his impatience to be at the front, had gone while crutches were still a necessity, but suffered so greatly that he was compelled to go into the hospital at Paducah, Kentucky.

Company C then numbered thirty-four privates who had all re-enlisted, besides others in hospitals and on detached service who were expected to do so.

The boys left their guns and accoutrements at Dubuque, where they were to report for duty after the expiration of their furlough.

Company E also was expected home soon and the present guests were all cordially invited to attend the festivities which would be accorded Company E's return. The day's festivities closed with a grand cotillion party in the evening and was a brilliant and successful affair.

Company C certainly deserved this honor. They had seen hard service for almost three years and been in desperate and deadly encounters first at Pea Ridge, Chickasaw, Arkansas Post, Jackson and Champion Hills and Vicksburg, and in spite of the joyousness and hilarity manifested on this occasion, yet there was many a heartache and blinding tear for the noble departed heroes who had given their lives for their country and lay buried on many a distant battlefield.

A ball was held on March 8, 1864, at Morse's Hall in commemoration of the Battle of Pea Ridge, which was fought on March 8, 1862, and Company C was one of the valiant companies which stood dauntless before the deadly onslaught of the enemy. The veterans of Company C at home certainly could appreciate

dancing to the tune of that glorious victory where they had achieved great honor and distinction. About this time Corp. William Codling of Company E, Fifth Iowa Infantry, arrived in Independence, having been discharged from the service on account of a severe wound he received at the battle of Jackson, Mississippi, and reported news that Company E would soon be home on furlough.

Company C of the Ninth received marching orders requiring them to rendezvous at Davenport, and they left on the 14th of March, some weeks earlier than they expected. Their stay at home had been made so pleasant that they were loath to depart, yet, like good, true soldiers, they did not murmur or repine.

Doctor Wright, who for weeks had been recruiting men throughout the county to the number of eighty, had taken them to Davenport, where they would be assigned to their different regiments. The following is the complete list from the different townships:

#### WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Arthur Merriman, Twenty-seventh Infantry; John Bessey, First Cavalry; L. Whait, First Cavalry; J. B. Hill, First Cavalry; Martin Stebbins, Fifth Infantry; John J. Miller, Fifth Infantry; Harry Samuels, First Cavalry; Thomas W. Melody, First Cavalry; Samuel Brayton, First Cavalry; L. J. Hale, First Cavalry; Robert J. Young, First Cavalry; Augustus Ritner, First Cavalry; Solomon Rufe, First Cavalry; Henry Cummings, First Cavalry; Thompson Lewis, First Cavalry; James H. Laughlin, Twenty-seventh Infantry; Hiram M. Thurston, Twenty-seventh Infantry; William Plevert, Twenty-seventh Infantry; Samuel H. Pierce, Third Battery; W. S. Wallace, Fourth Cavalry; Theodore Powers, Fourth Cavalry; John Donovan, Fifth Infantry; Charles Gordon, Seventh Infantry.

#### LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

George W. Wells, First Cavalry; Andrew Brownson, First Cavalry; Daniel Swartzel, First Cavalry; William Miller, First Cavalry; R. W. Bodell, First Cavalry; George W. Markly, First Cavalry; William J. Washburn, First Cavalry; S. W. Hardin, First Cavalry; Amos Andrews, First Cavalry; J. T. Washburn, First Cavalry; B. H. Hall, First Cavalry; Ralph Henningan, First Cavalry; Silas Henningan, First Cavalry; D. W. Ring, First Cavalry.

#### NEWTON TOWNSHIP

W. T. Wallon, First Cavalry; Charles Bunce, veteran, First Cavalry; H. H. Ramsey, Twenty-seventh Infantry; Abraham Black, Twenty-seventh Infantry; James A. Waldron, Twenty-seventh Infantry.

#### CONO TOWNSHIP

Charles G. Neuele, First Cavalry; A. Sanford, Twenty-seventh Infantry; J. Booth, Twenty-seventh Infantry.

## FAIRBANK TOWNSHIP

H. G. Balcom, First Cavalry; S. C. Hines, First Cavalry; H. S. Hopkins, First Cavalry; J. H. Kent, First Cavalry; Allen Brant, Twenty-seventh Infantry; S. W. Patterson, Twenty-seventh Infantry; William E. Cairn, veteran, Twenty-seventh Infantry.

## BUFFALO TOWNSHIP

William H. Sutton, First Cavalry; Samuel H. Messenger, First Cavalry; Samuel Bullis, First Cavalry; T. C. Canfield, Twenty-seventh Infantry; George D. Smith, Twenty-seventh Infantry.

## HAZLETON TOWNSHIP

D. A. Todd, Twenty-seventh Infantry; A. D. Allen, Twenty-seventh Infantry; H. D. Barry, Twenty-seventh Infantry; Henry Hardy, Twenty-seventh Infantry; C. M. Wheelock, First Cavalry; Rufus Bunce, First Cavalry; Martin Hayes, Twenty-seventh Infantry; R. Merrill, Sr., Twenty-seventh Infantry; R. Merrill, Jr., Twenty-seventh Infantry.

## FREMONT TOWNSHIP

Peter Gilford, First Cavalry; M. S. Malloy, First Cavalry; James Flenning, First Cavalry.

## SUMNER TOWNSHIP

R. Metcalf, First Cavalry.

## MADISON TOWNSHIP

Mort Smith, Twenty-seventh Infantry; Gustavus Jackway, Twenty-seventh Infantry; Benjamin Crocker, Twenty-seventh Infantry.

## PERRY TOWNSHIP

Preston Reinhart, Twenty-seventh Infantry.

## BYRON TOWNSHIP

Robert Buth, Twenty-seventh Infantry.

## JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

J. F. Henderson, Twenty-seventh Infantry; R. H. Wilson, Twenty-seventh Infantry; J. Dawson, Twenty-seventh Infantry.

There were also eight men from Oran Township, Fayette County. Although this was guaranteed to be the last call for volunteers, and this supply of our quota would preclude any further draft from this county, it was not long until the President issued another call for 200,000 more for the military, navy and marine corps, and Buchanan County was again urged to her duty. No particular news of the Twenty-seventh had been received for some weeks past, until Lieutenant-Colonel Lake and Lieutenant Donnan came home the last of March, 1864, for a two weeks' furlough and reported that the Twenty-seventh was participating with Sherman in the Red River expedition. A benefit ball was given for the veterans of Company B, Fourth Cavalry, on the 31st of March, 1864. Captain Parsons was director of the affair and it was a financial and social success. A soldiers' sanitary fair meeting was held on the 25th of March, 1864, at the instigation of the state committee for the purpose of perfecting county and township organizations. A state sanitary fair was to be held in Dubuque on the 24th of May and generous donations were requested. Several men and women from Dubuque and Chicago were present and addressed the meeting, urging the people to assist in this very necessary and humane work. Lieutenant Donnan also was present and addressed the meeting in a speech replete with patriotism and incidents of the war. A committee of six was appointed to solicit subscriptions of money and vegetables. Doctor Warne, Doctor Wright, C. J. Reed, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Dunham, and Mrs. Warne constituted the committee.

Committees of two from each township were appointed to act in conjunction with the Ladies' Aid Society of Independence to procure and forward supplies to the Northern Iowa Sanitary Fair. Mrs. Bemis was president of the fair for Buchanan County and in a short time thirty-eight barrels had been received at the postoffice and were ready to forward to Dubuque. Later Doctor Warne shipped 100 barrels of potatoes. Every available means and opportunity were enlisted to raise funds and provisions for the sanitary board by the Ladies' Aid Society. The express companies carried all packages for the soldiers for half fare.

For three years they had been actively and tirelessly at work, giving constantly of their time, money and energy. At the evening reception given to Company E they collected over one hundred dollars in voluntary subscriptions, raffled a cake and made \$100.00, and yet had the cake left to donate to the Sanitary Fair at Dubuque. Another festival soon after that netted them \$64.00. A mush and milk and popcorn and milk sociable was another novel feature to which the aid society resorted to raise funds. In all the other towns in the county organizations were working for the Iowa Sanitary Fair. Quasqueton always was active and liberal in everything pertaining to the benefit of the soldiers. Hazleton had up to the last of May, 1864, raised something like \$150. Fairbank, Littleton and Buffalo Grove were zealously at work.

Another society known as the Soldiers' Friend Association was organized the last of March, 1864. It met at the Masonic Hall. Mrs. Snow acted as chairman and Mrs. Henshaw as secretary. In the election which followed the organization Mrs. P. C. Wilcox was elected president, Mrs. Purdy vice president, Mrs. Hedges secretary, Miss Gillispie treasurer, and Miss Homans corresponding secretary.

The next thing of importance was when the citizens of Independence were suddenly electrified by a dispatch from Lieutenant Waggoner, dated at Davenport, announcing the news that the veterans of Company E, Fifth Iowa Infantry, were on their way home. The time of preparing a grand reception was limited, but immediate and active preparations began. The word was circulated throughout the county and when the soldiers landed there was a large and cordial crowd there to greet them. Again the cannon boomed forth its welcome and the band played its liveliest airs. A welcome speech was made by Hon. L. W. Hart, state senator from this district. In it he recalled the parting scene of three years ago and recounted their excellent war record, their first great victory at New Madrid, then the bloody and hotly contested field of Iuka and again at Corinth, at Jackson, at Black River Bridge, on the fatal field of Champion Hills and finally at the siege and surrender of Vicksburg, then later on that memorable and heroic march from Vicksburg to Chattanooga, on half rations, on quarter rations and less, half clad, bareheaded, bare and sorefooted, tearing up their blankets and other garments to make moccasins for their sore and blistered feet, but, nevertheless, joyous, happy and willing. Then after marching this incredible distance in so short a time, plunging immediately into the thickest of the fight at Missionary Ridge, hurling death like a whirlwind among the ranks of the foe.

Hardly in the history of the world has there been such a stupendous undertaking. And so "we, the citizens of Buchanan County, bow in humble adoration for the many and great services you have rendered your beloved country, noble state and devoted county." More earnest and sincere praise and welcome were never uttered than to these the valiant heroes of Company E, Fifth Iowa.

After this effusive and eloquent address, the soldiers, escorted by a large cavalcade of horsemen, the new fire company, a long procession of citizens and headed by the town band, marched to the courthouse, where a feast, equal in every particular to that given to Company C, Ninth Iowa, was spread. Supper also was given them, and an invitation to attend the Ladies' Aid Society that evening, where nearly all the town turned out to greet them.

Only twenty-four of the sixty which remained in the service came home and were under the command of Lieutenant Peck. Captain Lee and Lieutenant White were both on detached service and could not get away. The captain was acting as division and brigade inspector, and came home later, and Lieutenant White as provost marshal at brigade headquarters. Quartermaster Waggoner came home with the regiment.

Thirty of the company had re-enlisted and were to be furloughed home before beginning on their new enlistment; six of them had stopped at various places on the way home. Fuller, Gray, Kinsel and Conway were in the Invalid Corps. Shay, who was also in this corps, had recently been drowned. Six of the company were still held as prisoners by the enemy. Fourteen were left at Huntsville, not having re-enlisted. Thus out of the 120 or 130 who originally were recruited in this company but about sixty remained in the service, showing the direful havoc the war had wrought in just this one company.

The Twenty-seventh Iowa, early in April, 1864, was in Alexandria, Louisiana. On April 23, 1864, Governor Stone issued a call for ten regiments of the

state militia to enlist for 100 days' service from the date of mustering in, and they responded by offering the Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh Regiments, and the Forty-eighth Battalion of Infantry, in all 3,901 men. These troops came from all parts of the state and were the voluntary offering of our people, who gave them for the special service contemplated, without expectation of any credit on the general calls for volunteers. President Lincoln had agreed to accept 100,000 volunteers offered by the governors of the northwestern states, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Iowa. The proposition originated in these states in order to increase the fighting strength of the Union forces, and at first met with considerable hostility from the authorities, but was at length adopted, the term of service being established at 100 days. With this augmentation of the army it was confidently expected that the rebellion could be substantially crushed and exterminated in that length of time. These volunteer troops could relieve others on guard and garrison duty and occupy the ground already taken. It served as a defensive organization while the veteran troops could wage an offensive campaign. It was thought that men who had previously served and others who would like to serve for a short time would readily enlist. Graphic pictures of fresh laurel wreaths, honors, and fame, which were yet to be acquired by any who might enlist, were some of the many inducements held forth in the Government message. The same pay and allowance was given as to previous troops. Every company was allowed to choose its own officers, etc. The entire number was to be raised and report to the adjutant-general at Davenport within twenty days.

Professor Calvin and all the students of Bowen Collegiate Institute at Hopkinton, who were old enough, had enlisted in this 100 days' service call. Professor Calvin was a former resident of Buchanan County and several of the students who enlisted were also from this county. (Senator M. W. Harmon was among the number.)

Word from the Twenty-seventh Regiment telling of the Red River campaign and the battle of Pleasant Hill and their losses was received. The regiment had four killed, one mortally wounded, seventy wounded and fourteen missing. Of Buchanan County companies but one, Company H, was in the fight, Company C being detailed as guard at General Smith's headquarters. The wounded of Company H were Corp. H. H. Love, H. B. Booth, A. Cordell, J. E. Haskins, all of Quasqueton; E. E. Mulick from Brandon and Harri-gan of Independence. Love and Mulick were thought to be prisoners. In the same issue of the paper is a letter from Company C of the Ninth Iowa, announcing the fact of Capt. E. C. Little's resignation. He was forced to resign on account of wounds received while gallantly leading his company against the heights of Vicksburg. In him the company lost an able and brave commander, a warm and kindhearted friend. He enlisted in the ranks as a private and by his unflinching devotion to his country and the faithful manner in which he discharged the duties assigned him, he rose step by step to the rank of captain, which he held with honor to himself and entire satisfaction to his company. He was made a cripple, perhaps for life, but returned home with the assurance that his comrades in arms left behind pledged themselves to avenge his injuries.

He was too touched to express verbally his high regard for his company, so wrote them a letter which was read to the company amid a deep and eloquent

silence. Nearly every captain of the home companies had resigned. The company was then put under the command of Lieut. James M. Elson; it then comprised seventy-six men, having received twenty-three new recruits.

Company E, which had been home since the 9th of April, left Friday, May 6th, for Davenport, where the regiment was in rendezvous. The evening previous to their departure they were entertained by the Ladies' Aid Society at a supper at the courthouse. It was a very pleasant and successful affair. Messrs. Herrick, L. S. Brooks and C. J. Reed were industriously working to get up another company of 100-day men. In some places the generous business men were guaranteeing the support of the families of volunteers and, here in Buchanan County, a liberal and patriotic feeling was manifesting itself. Two hundred dollars was quickly donated by a few patriotic citizens. One man offered \$15 and another \$9 per month to the families of two volunteers and doubtless others did likewise. Finally this volunteer company of 100-day men had their quota complete and left Independence on Wednesday, May 18, 1864; the number was completed by uniting with a squad of twenty men from Black Hawk County; the company numbered nearly ninety men. They held their election before leaving and the following officers were elected:

#### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Captain, Charles F. Herrick.  
 Captain, Lewis S. Brooks.  
 First Lieutenant, Lewis S. Brooks.  
 Second Lieutenant, Arthur E. McHugh.

#### NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

First Sergeant, Sidney C. Adams.  
 First Sergeant, Daniel W. Hopkins.  
 Second Sergeant, Daniel W. Hopkins.  
 Second Sergeant, John H. Leatherman.  
 Third Sergeant, John F. Clarke.  
 Fourth Sergeant, John F. Clarke.  
 Fourth Sergeant, Isaac E. Freeman.  
 Fifth Sergeant, William McKenney.  
 First Corporal, Augustus H. Older.  
 Second Corporal, James D. Hill.  
 Third Corporal, George B. Bouck.  
 Fourth Corporal, John Hook.  
 Fifth Corporal, Orville D. Boyles.  
 Sixth Corporal, Morton J. Sykes.  
 Seventh Corporal, Simmons P. Mead.  
 Eighth Corporal, George S. Jackson.  
 Musician, William H. McHugh.  
 Musician, Hamilton Taylor.  
 Wagoner, Thomas Lincoln.



## PRIVATES

Thomas Abbott, Lyman F. Bouck, Ralph R. Briggs, George P. Benton, Addison C. Beach, Jed Brockway, George Casebeer, Gustav Cain, James A. Calvin, Howard M. Craig, Francis M. Fritzing, Orville Fonda, Lewis H. Gehman, William H. Gaige, DeWitt Guernsey, Stephen L. Greely, Henry Holman, George L. Hayden, Henry W. Johnson, George T. King, Royal Lowell, Jesse H. Long, Lansing D. Lewis, Frank Lauderdale, Hugh McCullough, B. Franklin Munger, Theodore F. Messenger, William H. H. Morse, Tillman Ozias, Samuel E. A. Ripley, Alexander Ramsey, David Sellers, Alexander W. Spalding, Frank L. Sherwood, William S. Scott, William Stevens, Charles D. Thompson, William C. Vaneman, Alden R. Wheeler, Elliott Weatherbee.

Few counties in the state responded to this last call more promptly or liberally than old Buchanan, furnishing more than double her quota.

At Davenport they were equipped and assigned as Company D, Forty-seventh Iowa Regiment. The brief period of absence anticipated and the nature of the service assigned to these volunteers naturally detracted much from the intensity of apprehension which had been a feature of former companies' departures. But although the time was comparatively short, a hundred mischances might befall and, though no one could predict the terrible ordeal through which this fated company was to pass, when the time of departure arrived the hearts of all followed them to the front, and as heretofore crowds of relatives and friends and both fire companies, headed by the band, escorted them to the depot and bade them Godspeed. John Leatherman, a veteran of the Ninth Iowa, who was wounded at Pea Ridge and discharged from the service in consequence thereof, and re-enlisted in Captain Herrick's company for the 100-day service, met with a serious accident at the depot. He was waving his hand to his friends when the train started to move and his arm came in contact with a grain spout projecting from one of the elevators near the track, dislocating it at the shoulder, but Mr. Leatherman insisted on proceeding with his company.

The First Iowa Cavalry in which Buchanan County had some representatives were home on furlough after re-enlistment. Our contingent reached home on Thursday, May 19th. A few days previous the citizens hearing of their coming proceeded to the depot to give them a reception, but were disappointed, and not being warned of their arrival on Thursday, no preparation had been made to receive them, probably to the relief of the soldiers, for they had been given a continuous ovation since they left Cairo and were tired of it.

This regiment had seen more service and been in more skirmishes and engagements than any regiment enlisted since the commencement of the war. It had scoured Missouri and Arkansas from center to circumference and was a perfect terror to the Rebs wherever they encountered them. Charles Edgecomb, William Foote, William Cummings and John Bohulein are among the names of these First Cavalry heroes.

Dr. R. W. Wright was enlisting officer for the Forty-sixth Iowa and was in Independence to get recruits for the 100 days' service. He was commissioned first lieutenant of that regiment and shortly had the desired number recruited.

A letter from the Ninth Iowa, dated Kingston, Georgia, May 22, 1864, tells

of the battle at Resaca in which Company C participated and had three men killed, Corp. David Steele, Nelson Lines and Robert Carnes. David Steele joined the company at its organization and was never absent from the regiment. He had been in every battle where the regiment was engaged and had never missed a day's duty since his enlistment, but while skirmishing a bullet pierced his head and he fell dead without a struggle. Nelson Lines was a recruit who had lately moved to Buchanan County and joined the company in March. Robert Carnes of Company H was formerly a member of Company C.

Letters from the Fourth from Camp McClellan tell of their camp life at that place, also announce that former Rep. D. D. Holdridge had received his commission as quartermaster of the Forty-sixth Regiment.

The aid societies were actively engaged in making and collecting things for the Sanitary Fair, and outside help was enlisted in this noble work.

Two concerts were given by the Lascelles Troupe at the courthouse in June, 1864, and half of the proceeds were liberally devoted to the Sanitary Fair.

At Greeley's Grove, Hazleton Township, they collected \$139.50, besides large donations of vegetables, butter, eggs, etc., for the sanitary commission. The Independence Aid Society had sent \$235.00 in money, besides all the previous donations, 100 barrels of potatoes, boxes of fruit and vegetables, and quantities of fancy articles.

The whole receipts of the fair up to Saturday, June 25, 1864, were \$64,000, included \$10,000 promised from the East.

A soldiers' aid society was organized in Jesup, in July, 1864. The officers elected were as follows: President, Mrs. L. B. Goss; vice president, Mrs. J. D. Laird; treasurer, Miss M. E. Cameron; recording secretary, Mrs. R. S. Searles; corresponding secretary, Miss F. A. Setchell. Directors, Mrs. G. Dodge and Mrs. Setchell. A similar organization in Alton Township did most efficient work in donations and subscriptions.

The Fourth of July, 1864, was not destined to pass by unnoticed. The forefathers of Independence City were not the kind that forget and ignore their benefactions. This anniversary meant much to them and they believed in a respectful, grateful, and appropriate observance of that day when liberty was so dearly bought. And at this particular time should they refresh their memories with thoughts of country and home. At this time when the country was being wrecked and devastated and our priceless inheritance of liberty lay torn and bleeding, a prisoner in the Rebel camp, and only to be released when the Union soldier could trample under foot and annihilate that venomous viper "treason," which stood guard at the prison door.

So this year was celebrated in the usual glorious manner, beginning at midnight, the cannon began to boom, and the new town bell to ring. A thing not to be tolerated now, for fear of disturbing the peaceful slumbers of some pessimistic ingrate, who thinks more of his personal comfort than of the bursting patriotism of some young American who wishes to express his enthusiasm by some explosive method.

We pray God, that the day may never be doomed to the sequestered and sepulchral quiet and gloom that some unsentimental and unpatriotic individuals would consign it. We believe in a perfectly sane Fourth but we still do believe in a bombastic one. One of those glorious old-fashioned Fourths with cannons

booming and bells ringing, and reading of the Declaration of Independence, with orations, speeches and parades, picnic dinners and fireworks, and everything else that goes with it. Not just for the fun, either, but lest we forget, lest we forget. This celebration of 1864 had all of these.

At 9:00 A. M. the bells tolled and all the stores closed for the day. At 10 a procession composed of the two fire companies in uniforms, with their gaily painted new hook and ladder outfit, the band and citizens, marched to the grove where the exercises were held. Reverend Mr. Boggs gave the oration and it was such a superb and masterful and eloquent effort that the citizens made up a purse of \$60.00 which they presented to him in appreciation of his splendid and patriotic service. Sixteen toasts and speeches followed the fine picnic dinner, held in the grove. Reverend Boggs' oration was interrupted by a bogus telegram announcing the capture of Petersburg. The bait took and caused great excitement. Cheers for Grant and the Union were indulged in to the full satisfaction of the perpetrators of the joke. Both at noon and at night the cannon and the bell gave vocal testimony of somebody's patriotic zeal. At night a torch-light procession closed the public celebration.

Our reason for writing about these Fourth of July celebrations in connection with the Civil war history, is because they were a great support to the Union cause and were the spontaneous outburst of patriotic enthusiasm. The speeches and all the exercises pertained closely to war subjects for, of course, everyone's interest was centered in that one topic. Word had been received from Captain Herriek's company of the Forty-seventh Iowa, saying that they were mustered in on the 4th of June, and left Davenport on the 7th for Cairo, Illinois, occupying the quarters just vacated by the Forty-fourth. From there they were sent to Memphis by boat, but did not stay here long but were transferred to Helena, Arkansas.

The first sad news that came from the Forty-seventh after they were in camp at Helena, was the announcement of the death of William H. Gaige, formerly a clerk in Independence, and a talented young man, who died of fever at Helena, and a Mr. Weeks had also died. This was but the beginning of a siege of sickness and death in that regiment.

Company D formed the Iowa Grey Beards, stationed at Memphis, and hunted up the members enlisted from this county.

There were in Iowa large numbers of men past the age for military service, who were anxious to serve the country during the War of the Rebellion. They succeeded in obtaining authority from Secretary Stanton, in August, 1862, through our state officers, to organize such a regiment for the performance of garrison and post duty, which would relieve the younger soldiers and thus add to the active army in the field.

The companies were soon raised, made up of men from forty-five to sixty-four years of age. It was officially known as the Thirty-seventh Regiment, but was universally called the "Grey Beard Regiment." Iowa, alone, of all the states in the Union, raised such a regiment.

They went into camp at Muscatine, but were not mustered into service until the middle of December. Early in January, 1863, it was sent to St. Louis, and as it marched through the streets, General Curtis pronounced it one of the

finest looking regiments he had seen in the service. Several men from our county enlisted in this regiment.

The Ninth Iowa was at this time encamped before Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia. Company C had a detail of one sergeant and fourteen men, who were in a lively skirmish with the rebel forces at Dallas, Georgia, but with their usual good luck came out unhurt with a few bullet holes in their clothes as certain proof of their good and brave soldiery.

Word from the First Cavalry tells of the death of Hiram G. Balcom, on June 8th, at Little Rock, Arkansas. He enlisted from Fairbank, having been a resident of Buchanan County for five years. He was a man of strict integrity, genial disposition and consistent Christian character. He left a wife and family.

This added another victim to the lengthening roll of noble heroes from this county who were sacrificed to this atrocious war.

August 4th, 1864, was set aside by the President for National Fast Day at the request of the United States Senate, to seek the blessing of God upon our arms. Business was suspended for a time and Divine worship was held in a Union service at the Methodist church in the evening, and a Union prayer meeting at the Presbyterian church.

An item of paramount interest, particularly to the Unionists and likewise all readers of the Guardian, was the announcement that Jacob Rich, that talented, efficient, fearless and patriotic literary exponent of Unionism, had sold his "Buchanan County Guardian," of which he was editor for eight years, to Rev. S. B. Goodenow, of Waterloo, who took charge of the paper on the 31st of May, and changed the name to the "Guardian of Independence." Mr. Goodenow proved to be a capable and efficient successor and the Union cause had a loyal supporter in him. Always the newspapers have been the exponents and expounders of universal knowledge, the pulse and thermometer of public sentiment and in those early days, when news was so difficult of access, their chosen newspaper was actually their law and creed. No wonder they looked to the weekly paper as their very deliverer and mental salvation at that time. The price of printing paper had more than tripled in value, and for a few months many of the newspapers were cut down from seven to five columns in size, and were printed on a cheap, yellowish paper. Almost all raised in price, but the Guardian did neither. The Civilian cut the size of their paper for a few months and raised its price. Both county papers were then \$2.00 per year. Previous to 1863 they were \$1.50 per year. The Chicago dailies at that time had raised to \$12.00 per annum.

A curiosity which some of the soldier boys sent home, was one of the first numbers of the "Union Flag," a paper published at Rome, Georgia, with materials seized from the rebels. It was edited by Matthias Harter, a volunteer from Independence, and was a spicy and creditable affair. A Union paper published in the very heart of the rebel territory was surely a novelty.

Letters from the Forty-seventh, the last of July, 1864, still encamped at Helena, Arkansas, paint a sorry picture. Sickness pervaded their entire regiment, and Company D was in a terrible plight. The officers were all sick; out of eighty men only sixteen were able to report on duty; all the rest were sick and in the hospitals. The principal disease was bilious fever. Capt. C. F. Herrick came home to recuperate.

Another item of this date informs us that the Fifth Iowa Infantry had been transferred to the Fifth Iowa Cavalry. The Fifth was the regiment of which Company E was a part. It was now reduced to less than two companies.

A general order of the governor, issued from the adjutant-general's office, at Davenport, on July 27, 1864, was to the effect that "the enrolled militia of this state will immediately organize themselves into companies of not less than forty, and not exceeding one hundred men."

Another clause in the order was: "Any person neglecting or refusing to attach himself to a company will be directed to join a company or will be dealt with as the law prescribes." The enrolled men in counties named were to organize the number of companies specified below. L. W. Hart, J. M. Westfall and R. W. Wright were authorized to organize the militia of Buchanan County. In this list Buchanan County's quota was fifteen companies. Washington Guards was the name.

Charles B. Kessler, aged twenty-one years, died near Quasqueton, April 7, 1864. He was the first white child born in what is now Buchanan County. Heeding the call of his country, he volunteered in January, 1862, and became a member of Company H, Thirteenth Regiment, United States Army. With his regiment he went safely through several severe battles, among which were those of Arkansas Post, Black River, Siege of Vicksburg, and Collierville. From the last-named conflict he turned to the hospital, broken down by fatigue and exposure, as many another youthful hero had been. Continuing to decline, he was brought home to die amid the loved and tender associations of his boyhood. Brave and generous, he was loved by all. He sleeps in a patriot's grave, another willing sacrifice for Liberty and the Union.

The parents of Charles B. Kessler were Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Kessler, who came to Quasqueton with the first installment of settlers in the early spring of 1842. His mother, Mrs. Heman Morse, lived in Independence until her death.

In the last of August, 1864, word came of the death of Capt. C. L. White, formerly of Company E, Fifth Iowa Infantry, at Cartersville, Georgia, whether of disease or wound was not stated. A short time before he had been appointed assistant adjutant-general, with the rank of captain. Captain White was an excellent man and a noble soldier, and was highly respected both at home and in the army. Also word was received that J. W. Foreman, another of our brave soldiers, had lost his limb, and had undergone two amputations. He had had to be in bed eight months, but through all his intense suffering he was the personification of bravery and loyalty, and only regretted that he was unable to serve his time out. These examples of heroism were not few in the annals of Buchanan County soldiery.

Up to this time the total amount contributed to the Northern Iowa Sanitary Fair from this county, reached \$841.23, a splendid showing considering all the previous donations. In reading of these numerous contributions it cannot help but strike one what a constant drain and strain was put upon the home folks.

As has been chronicled, the Forty-seventh Regiment was sent to Helena, Arkansas, where many contracted disease, from which they died at that post, or after their return to their homes in Iowa. The services of these men were of great value to the national cause, as was acknowledged by the President of the

United States, in a special executive order, returning thanks to the 100-day volunteers of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, for their patriotic services, commending them with merited praise.

Executive Mansion, Washington City, October 1, 1864.

Special executive order, returning thanks to the volunteers for 100 days, from the states of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin :

The term of 100 days, for which volunteers from the states of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin volunteered, under the last call of their respective governors, in the months of May and June, to aid in the recent campaign of General Sherman, having expired, the President directs an official acknowledgment of their patriotic services. It was their good fortune to render efficient service in the brilliant operations in the Southwest, and to the victories of the national arms over the rebel forces in Georgia, under command of Johnston and Hood. On all occasions, and in every service to which they were assigned, their duty as patriotic volunteers was performed with alacrity and courage, for which they are entitled to, and are hereby tendered, the national thanks, through the governors of their respective states.

The secretary of war is directed to transmit a copy of this order to the governors of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, and to cause a certificate of their honorable services to be delivered to the officers and soldiers of the states above mentioned, who recently served in the military force of the United States as volunteers for 100 days.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

This commendation of gratitude and appreciation from the beloved President, Abraham Lincoln, rendered "pay in full" for all the sickness and hardships endured.

Never a week and scarcely a day but what there were calls, not alone for the soldiers at the front, but help and support for the soldiers' families at home, and the poor and needy in a new country are generally more numerous than in later years. Then, too, the ministers were almost wholly supported by donation.

In August, 1864, Buchanan County was only sixty-five behind all calls, and Independence was out of the draft, her surplus being fifteen.

Pursuant to the order issued by the governor in July, the Washington Guards of the enrolled militia met at the courthouse on Saturday, September 9, 1864, and elected the following officers: James M. Weart, captain; J. H. Cutter, first lieutenant; T. J. Marinus, second lieutenant; James B. Dorman, orderly; S. L. Frizelle, second sergeant; H. P. Lovejoy, third sergeant; A. E. Brooks, fourth sergeant; H. R. Hunter, fifth sergeant; S. L. Peck, first corporal; H. H. Holt, second corporal; C. R. Wallace, third corporal; W. A. Jones, fourth corporal.

Many patriotic societies and orders were organized throughout the country during the war and Buchanan County certainly had its share of such.

An order of which we have not spoken but which had been in existence since the beginning of the war was "The Union of America—U. L. of A." Independence had a council, Quasqueton had one, and several others were in the



C. B. KESSLER AND MOTHER

C. B. Kessler was the first white child born in Buchanan County





county. Other orders were "The Patriotic Sons of America" and "The Wide-awakes."

In the fall of 1864 national politics was again consuming people's time and attention and the two parties, union and copperheads, were strenuously campaigning. Lincoln was the republican nominee for President for a second term and General McClellan was the democratic. In Buchanan County politics as usual was hot and sizzling, each party having mass meetings, with delegations and demonstrations. The U. L. A.'s were particularly busy. At a union mass meeting held September 27, 1864, rousing and patriotic speeches were made by Colonel Lake, Captain Lee and Rep. D. D. Holdridge, all home from the war on furloughs. Another union mass meeting of Buchanan and the adjoining counties was held in Independence, Tuesday, October 25, 1864. Several prominent speakers were on the program, among them Ex-Governor Kirkwood, Gov. William M. Stone, Hon. B. T. Hunt, and Superior Judge C. C. Cole. Hon. William B. Allison was at a previous union meeting. A torchlight procession in the evening by the Independence "Wide Awakes" (another union patriotic society) was one of the features.

W. C. Morris, a jeweler of Independence, had gotten up a fine breastpin consisting of a spread eagle bearing in his beak a medal, with the bust of Lincoln and the words, "Lincoln and Liberty." The design and execution were excellent and proved very popular with the politicians.

In September the draft list had decreased from sixty-five to forty-three and the long threatened draft was to take place on Friday, September 30th, by Hon. S. P. Adams at Dubuque, and at that draft the deficits stood:

Township—	Enrolled.	Deficit.	Drawn.
Perry .....	46	5	10
Madison .....	45	2	4
Fremont .....	23	1	2
Westburg .....	10	3	6
Homer .....	41	14	10
Jefferson .....	88	6	12
Middlefield .....	31	4	8
Newton .....	88	6	12
Cono .....	98	2	4

Substitutes were sought by some of the drafted men, who paid as high as \$1,000 for their services.

On September 19, 1864, a dispatch was received from Captain Herrick at Davenport, saying: "We arrived yesterday: to be mustered out Wednesday." According to this the company would soon be home. On Friday, September 30 the 100-day men arrived home. They were met at the depot by the fire companies in uniform and were escorted to the Baptist Church, which was not then completed, where an excellent dinner was served. The company looked very jaded from the sickness which had prevailed among them.

As would be expected during the war times, prices of some of the principal commodities, particularly those imported and manufactured, were exceedingly

high, while those of home production were very cheap compared to prices of 1914. The Independence retail market in January, 1865, was:

Flour, per cwt.....	\$ 4.00	Corn, per bu., shelled....	\$ .55
Oats, per bu., new.....	.48	Beans, per bu.....	1.75
Potatoes, per bu.....	.50	Butter, per lb.....	.40
Eggs, per doz.....	.15	Lard, per lb. (none)....	.25
Beef, per cwt.....	\$6 and 7.00	Steak, per lb.....	.12
Pork, per cwt. (none)....	12.50	Salt, per bbl.....	5.50
Syrup, per gal.....	1.50	Molasses, per gal.....	1.25
Sorghum, per gal.....	1.00	Brown sugar, per lb.....	.28
Refined, per lb..35 and	.40	Black tea, per lb.....	1.50
Green tea, none sold, per		Rio Coffee, per lb.....	.60
lb. ....	2.25	Sheeting, per yd.....	.80
Dried apples, per lb.....	.15	Tallow, per lb.....	.14
Prints, per yd....35 and	.50	Oak wood, per cord	
Kerosene, per gal.....	1.25	(none) .....	6.00
Shingles, per M. No. 1....	7.50	Boards, first clear, per M.	65.00
Commonest boards, per M	43.00	Flooring, per M.\$48 and	62.00
Siding, rough, per M....	37.00	Wheat .....	1.05
Gold .....	1.80	Silver .....	1.70

Exchange on New York.....buy par, sell  $\frac{1}{2}$  premium  
 Exchange on Chicago.....buy  $\frac{1}{2}$  discount, sell  $\frac{1}{4}$  premium  
 Buchanan County warrants.....sell 80 and 85 cents  
 Eastern currency .....

Par funds.....greenbacks, national bank and state banks of Iowa

Pork was retailing at 18 cents per pound. Two years before it sold at 2 cents. People were wondering how they could "grease their whistles" if it still raised.

Gold was at a premium and greenbacks were below par. When farms were sold, or any large exchanges made, gold was largely demanded and a reduction or per cent off allowed for it, although greenbacks were legal tender, but the finances in the country were rather insecure. It was a matter of public interest and comment and published in the papers, when in February, 1865, Mr. Spragg had come all the way from New Brunswick, in the British provinces, 2,000 miles away, and bought the William L. Clark farm near Fairbank and paid gold for it—\$1,500 in gold and the remaining \$2,000 he was privileged to pay in greenbacks. The value of the \$1,500 in gold was worth over \$3,000 in currency. This was a farm of 200 acres—170 acres of it fenced, 45 acres under cultivation, 70 acres of it timber, with only a few log buildings. That was an extra good price for land at that early day.

A dispatch from Vicksburg, Mississippi, October 18, 1864, informs the citizens of Independence that Lieut. S. A. Reed, acting ordnance officer, Fourth Division, United States Colored Infantry, was promoted to be captain of Company A, Fiftieth United States Colored Infantry. Captain Reed entered the services with the Fifth Iowa Regiment in 1861 and for meritorious conduct upon the battlefield of Champions Hill was appointed a first lieutenant of the Twelfth

Louisiana Volunteers, which office he held with honor to himself and the service. Captain Reed had been what you might call the official reporter to the Guardian besides.

Some of the different religious societies were becoming interested in the political issues of this year's (1864) campaign, and at the Cedar Valley Baptist Association, of which Independence was a part, they adopted very strong resolutions against slavery and "armed traitors in the South," and those who aided them in the North; those who were crying peace at the sacrifice of our Union, etc. These resolutions strike us very much like a political platform and savor of political preferment, but those were times to stir men's souls to action. And all this agitation had a beneficial result for the Union ticket, with Lincoln leading it, polling the largest majority that had ever been given any President. Lincoln had ten times as many as McClellan. Buchanan County was decidedly Unionistic and Lincolnistic, giving that party 453 majority, and their entire ticket carried. C. E. Lathrop, formerly of Independence, was one of the marshals on Inauguration Day when Lincoln was seated.

Word from Camp McClellan Hospital, Davenport, reports the death of George Vincent Cummins of Company B, Forty-seventh Iowa. His father was Rev. G. B. Cummins, formerly for many years a resident of Buchanan County. George was born near Quasqueton and was in his sixteenth year. He died of typhoid fever—another sacrifice to the war god. E. B. Cook of Littleton had been drafted and promptly started to the front.

In December, 1864, Governor Stone issued an appeal to all the people of the state to contribute for the support of suffering soldiers' families. The state had appropriated some the year before, but it was not in any way sufficient, so the governor proposed a general contribution of the people, setting apart for that purpose the last day of the year. He offered a handsome banner as a reward to the county which contributed the most, and an elegant engraved diploma to the individual who rendered the most aid. In Independence a supper was given by the Soldiers' Aid Society at the National Hotel. The proceeds amounted to \$120, to be distributed among the needy. Friends at Jesup had received word the last of December, 1864, that John Rust had been killed in a battle near Nashville. Two sons of J. Shaffer also were wounded and another was taken prisoner.

In January, 1865, still another draft of soldiers was to be made. In Washington Township the number enrolled was 328 and twelve more was necessary, and throughout the county there was volunteering being done to escape the draft. E. R. Merrill, who returned from the army to Hazleton some weeks before, on a sick furlough, had just died.

On February 6th, it was announced that Major Marshall was back home. He escaped from the rebel prison in Georgia after being incarcerated about a year and a half. The body of Capt. J. D. Smith, who was killed in October, 1864, was brought to Independence from Bunker Hill, Illinois, for burial, and Mrs. Smith and family returned here to live.

The Twenty-seventh Regiment had come up to Cairo and then embarked down the Mississippi to participate in Sherman's campaign in the East.

Inauguration Day, March 4, 1865, was celebrated in Independence with flags, cannon salutes, ringing of the town bell, a firemen's parade, and general rejoicing.

In Newton Township they celebrated with a fine big dinner for the benefit of soldiers' wives and widows. After dinner came the distribution of money and other gifts which the kind friends and neighbors had brought. Coming swift and fast upon the recital of the many tragedies of the war and home concerns, appertaining to and affected by it, comes the announcement on April 9, 1865, of the surrender of General Lee to General Grant at Appomattox courthouse. This was the grand and glorious finale, the stupendous climax of this long and grievous war. April 14th was celebrated as Sumter Day and there was great excitement and rejoicing in every hamlet and village through the entire Union territory, and probably a sigh of relief, even though despondent from the entire South. Independence celebrated the event with a general jollification with a great bonfire at the corner of Main and Walnut streets, flags flying, banners waving, with "Our flag floats again over Sumter" embellished thereon, firing of cannon, bells ringing, the firemen's parade, and "speechifying" on a hog'shead. Great crowds were out and the excitement and happiness reached the highest pitch.

Then suddenly the whole country was pitched headlong from the topmost pinnacle of joy into the deepest and most profound depths of despair. President Lincoln, the noble and honest, kind and true-hearted, to many the epitome of human goodness and greatness, had been foully murdered. The story is so vivid in the minds of even the youngest "historian" that we shall not try to portray the awful excitement, gloom and despair, and the spirit of vengeance and bitter hatred which this horrible tragedy aroused. Feeling was intense and people were in a state of unreasonable prejudice and passion. Naturally the Southern Confederacy was held responsible for this murderous act and dire and awful vengeance was threatened the rebels.

The Guardian and Conservative as all other papers got out extra editions heavily draped in mourning. The flags which had been fluttering so gaily and triumphantly for the Union victories were hauled down to half mast and draped in mourning. Editorials in the papers were a succession of expletives and laudits for the dead executive and accusations and threats for the assassins. "Vengeance was the cry." Governor Stone, then at Washington, issued a proclamation calling upon all Iowa to observe Thursday, April 27th, as a day of fasting and prayer over this solemn Providence, and requesting that all travel and business be suspended. So, in accordance with this order, Independence observed the day with appropriate services. The first observance was on Wednesday, April 19th. At 11:30 A. M., Judge Burt adjourned court until 2 P. M. in anticipation of the funeral services for the lamented President, as recommended from Washington, for that noon, all over the land. With the zealous exertions of Sheriff Westfall and Reverend Fulton they had a very appropriate, though extemporaneous, ceremony. At 12 the flags were put up at half mast, draped in deep mourning; the bell was tolled with minute peals from 12 A. M. to 1 P. M. Hand bills were quickly circulated and at 1 P. M. a large concourse of people had assembled at the courthouse where fitting services were conducted by the several ministers of the town and two out of town speakers. After this ceremony court resumed. Then a citizens meeting was held Saturday eve, April 22d, to make arrangements for funeral solemnities to be observed on Thursday, April 27th. Great plans were made by the committee

appointed to properly observe the day; the program was to commence at sunrise, with firing of cannon every half hour during the day; business was to be suspended and all public and private houses and all places of business be draped in mourning. A procession of the fire companies, lodges, all patriotic and other societies, the mayor and city council, the clergy, the band, a hearse drawn by four gray horses, pall bearers, consisting of military men, returned soldiers of Buchanan County and the citizens generally was to be formed at the bell tower, march through the city and proceed to one of the churches, where services were to be held. Everything was in readiness when the date of the funeral was changed and the plans were submerged with those of the fast day ordered by Governor Stone as a state memorial day, and this day was fittingly and impressively observed in part, as they had planned for the previous occasion. J. S. Woodward, Jacob Rich, R. W. Wright, J. P. Hodge and H. Kinsley were the committee on arrangements and conformed as much as possible to the recommendations of the governor. A great throng of people assembled at the courthouse where the Union services were held. Rev. John Fulton gave a most eloquent address, all places of business were closed and everyone refrained from secular avocations and pleasures. At Littleton on Fast Day, April 27th, Rev. J. D. Caldwell gave a most able and eloquent discourse which, at the earnest request and vote of the congregation, was published in the Guardian of May 31 in full. Everywhere meetings were held to testify by prayer and humiliation the great grief felt at the loss of this noble life, and sorrow at the great calamity to the country and humanity.

Our state representation in Washington met and passed resolutions, among them that the citizens of Iowa in Washington wear the usual badge of mourning for the period of sixty days, a custom not observed nowadays.

The mourning seemed to be universal and sincere although the democratic papers all over the country and the Independence Conservative, along with the rest, previously had reviled, derided, abused and defamed his character, his ability, his intentions and his attainments as never a public man was before or since. It really doesn't seem possible that such bitter and venomous feeling could exist and such threatening and slanderous talk be used and at such a time. Times certainly have improved in this matter; we believe in the freedom of the press, but think a respect should be accorded our President and that a defamation of character and slander should be utterly and entirely eliminated, but the degree of the offense is largely determined by the spirit in which it is given, and during that period of our history there was no question as to the spirit, which was of the most vicious and acrid character.

Immediately following this great national calamity came the pertinent question of punishment for the traitorous, remorseless and accursed leader of the Rebellion and also negro franchise. In the different states opinions were as varied and as intense as they had been about the war, and in Independence as everywhere there were opposing factions.

The democrats were supporting the lenient, forbearing, forgiving and conciliatory policy, while the republicans demanded judgment, justice, restitution and retribution.

On the negro franchise question the two parties were as much divided and sentiments swayed the public mind more perhaps than on the other questions.

There was no idea of justice or duty, only a matter of sentiment and prejudice.

During these stirring times communications from the soldiers were either very scarce or else inconsequently compared with these other events and were crowded out, for no letters had been printed for some weeks.

A letter came from Captain Elson of Company C, Ninth Iowa Infantry, at Raleigh, North Carolina, telling of their part in the capture of Columbia, along with four other Iowa regiments.

The Thirteenth Iowa had been given all the credit for this victory when in reality they were not in that brigade, but at the opportune moment had rushed in to claim the prize.

Our soldiers were scattered all over the country. Another letter tells of Captain Gaylord's thrilling adventures with the Indians in Dakota. Captain Gaylord had left Fort Berthold, where he had been stationed all winter as A. C. S., and was on his way to join his company at Leavenworth, Kansas.

Formerly he was lieutenant in Company G, Sixth Iowa Volunteer Cavalry, but afterwards joined the United States Volunteers.

G. B. Sitler had arrived home from the war. He had been in prison over a year. Word from Company G, Fifth Iowa Cavalry, from Macon, Georgia, April 30, 1865, tells of their expected home coming. All the re-enlisted men of Company E were with this regiment and had been with them since they started on the march from Chickasaw Landing.

Hon. Stephen J. W. Tabor, fourth auditor of the treasury and president of a society of Iowa people in Washington, formerly of Independence, and William Duane Wilson of the Agricultural Department visited President Johnson and presented him, in behalf of the State of Iowa, a resolution from the citizens of Iowa residing in Washington, D. C., expressing their deep sorrow and regret at the great national loss sustained in the death of President Lincoln, and being unwilling to occupy the valuable time of his successor, President Johnson, by a formal call, they expressed their sentiments toward him in a resolution signed by them.

This resolution is abounding in the most flattering compliments and lofty praises, calling him a statesman of practical wisdom, a patriot of incorruptible integrity, a man of courage, firmness and energy, etc., and expressing the greatest respect and admiration for him and his strict adherence to his convictions; furthermore offering their own and the state's cheerful and heartiest support. This resolution was presented to President Johnson by Hon. S. J. W. Tabor with a very eulogistic speech, and the President replied, expressing his grateful thanks. After this public sentiment and personal regard changed in respect to President Johnson, and he was impeached, but time has fully vindicated his honor.

The Ladies' Aid Society, which had worked so faithfully and unremittingly for the past four years and whose mission really expired with the close of the war, reorganized into a Ladies' Christian Commission as an auxiliary to the Chicago branch of the United States Christian Commission. They met at the courthouse on May 25, 1865, and adopted a constitution and by-laws and elected the following officers: President, Mrs. J. M. Boggs; vice president, Mrs. J.

Fulton; secretary, Mrs. J. C. Loomis; treasurer, Mrs. Warne; and a charter membership of thirty-six.

June 1st, the last National Memorial Day, ordered by President Johnson and Congress, was observed in Independence, Quasqueton and other places, with appropriate services held in the churches. Addresses were made and prayers offered, and a deep solemnity and sincere sorrow pervaded. S. B. Goodenow, editor of the Guardian, delivered an eloquent and effusive eulogy on Lincoln, at Quasqueton, and also at Littleton, which was printed in the Guardian.

Capt. J. P. Sampson was home this June on furlough. He had joined the regular army, having been on the signal corps, and at this time appointed assistant in the Freedman's Bureau, stationed at Mobile.

Eli Geer, one of the last drafted men, died at Beaufort, South Carolina, of typhoid fever.

The Fourth this year was celebrated at Independence, Quasqueton, and Fairbank with the usual excellent program—national salutes, speeches, music, oration, parade of different orders and Dumfuzzies, fireworks, and sumptuous dinner. Colonel Heege, of the "Flying Artillery," had a troop of cavalrymen—fifty in number—to escort the two town cannons. At Quasqueton they had a barbeque—a roasted ox and pigs. About two thousand ate dinner there. This Fourth was the climax of all previous ones, in the general good feeling and rejoicing; the war was over, and peace was manifesting its benign presence.

For some months past a great deal of agitation had been promulgated toward a state orphans' home, for the special benefit of soldiers' orphans. Numerous speakers had been in Independence, working in its behalf, and the different patriotic societies had lent their financial aid and influence to this worthy cause, and the Ninth Regiment, in camp at Louisville, Kentucky, adopted resolutions urging the positive necessity of the grand and beneficent institution.

Iowa is recognized as being first in furnishing soldiers, and they among the "bravest of the brave," and true to the reputation thus gained, Iowa was first in her efforts to provide for the orphans of her gallant dead. A soldiers' orphans' fair was held at Marshalltown, and there were extensive displays of all kinds of exhibits. All soldiers were urged to attend, and were entertained gratuitously. Tents, bedding, and meals were furnished to soldiers and rented to others. Goodly sums of money were contributed from Buchanan County, and numerous entertainments and suppers were held to raise funds.

The Fourth Iowa Cavalry was stationed at Atlanta, Georgia, and wrote home of their expected pleasure in hoisting the Stars and Stripes over the courthouse in this rebel stronghold. In the Guardian, of Wednesday, July 19, 1865, is a notice that the Iowa Ninth was coming home. It was in Chicago, enroute to Davenport, where it would be mustered out and thence home. The Twenty-seventh's term of enlistment expired September 13th, and this brought it within the order for mustering out all regiments whose time expires before October 1st. Companies C and H, of the Twenty-seventh, disbanded the first week in August, and reached Independence, Tuesday, the 8th. Mr. Heege, of the heavy artillery, met them with the usual "loud and bursting welcome," and tried in vain to form a line of march, but as he expressed it—"friends, children, mother, frau, all there—nothing but hug—kiss—cry; scatter everywhere—no process—nothing." But happiness reigned supreme, and little else mattered. The

Twenty-seventh elicited much praise from the different places where they encamped on their way home. From the Clinton Herald: "No better regiment ever went into service, and the conduct of its members while here, showed them to be good citizens as well as brave soldiers. The officers labored diligently on muster rolls and pay rolls, and promptly did their duty. The men were quiet, unobtrusive, and well disciplined, etc. Their deportment was not excelled by any regiment." The Clinton women got up a bounteous dinner for them, and the school board threw open the schoolhouses for their shelter from the rain. The regiment passed resolutions of thanks for their kind and generous treatment.

The Dubuque Herald highly complimented them for their quiet, orderly, and gentlemanly behavior while in Dubuque. "No regiment that had passed through that city showed a greater respect for law and order than the Twenty-seventh." Col. Jed Lake made a very laudatory parting address, which we herewith print.

Fellow Soldiers: In taking leave of you at this time, after three years' service in the field, I hardly know how to express myself, such varied emotions crowd themselves upon my mind. Sorrow at parting the associations that have naturally grown up among us during the hardships that we have suffered in the field, and joy at the prospect of once more rejoining our families and friends in civil life. But knowing that we have fully accomplished that for which we entered the United States military service, you are to return to your homes with the full consciousness of having done your duty to your country as soldiers. By your courage on the field of battle, your patience on long and fatiguing marches, your uncomplaining submission to the hardships and privations of camp life, you have won for yourselves an enviable reputation; you are now about to return to civil life. Be as good citizens as you have been soldiers, and you will ever maintain for yourselves the highest esteem of your fellow-men. While we mingle our tears and sorrows over the graves of our comrades, who lie buried, from the Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, let us ever strive to maintain the integrity of the Republic, and the honors of her citizen soldiery.—Signed, Lieut.-Col. Jed Lake, Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry.

The Fifth Cavalry Regiment was mustered out at Clinton, in August, and Company E arrived at Dubuque, on Friday, August 18th. The fourteen men from Independence and vicinity came home immediately, and received a joyful welcome.

They participated in the last battles of the Rebellion, and were among the last of the army that were mustered out. The First Iowa Cavalry, in which several Quasqueton men were enlisted, was still in camp at Alexandria, Louisiana.

At a meeting of the citizens of Buchanan County, held at the courthouse, on August 25th, it was determined to hold a reunion and welcome celebration on September 16th, in honor of our soldiers. Committees were appointed and great preparations were made, which were successfully carried out. The weather was ideal, and all the county turned out to do honor to their noble soldiery. There were over five thousand people on the streets.

At 10.30, a procession consisting of bands, soldiers in uniforms, and citizens, started from the courthouse and proceeded to march through all the principal streets, to the green opposite the postoffice, where the soldiers were lined up. Here prayer was offered by Reverend Adams, and the address of welcome given



BOGHANAN COUNTY VETERANS' REUNION, 1911





by Reverend Boggs was a most eloquent and appropriate one, and was ably responded to by Col. Jed Lake, one of the heroes of the day, on behalf of the soldiers.

General Dickinson was chief marshal of the day and Lieutenant Donnan and Captain Weart were assistants. From the green the procession marched to Older's Grove, where the bounteous and lavish dinner and speeches were enjoyed.

A large triumphal arch had been erected in front of Union Block, covered with greens, and bore the words, "Welcome, Brave Boys." At the Guardian office, which was all decked in green, was displayed a twelve-foot motto, gotten up in artistic style, bearing these honorary words—"Hail, All Hail to Our Country's Defenders." Banners and flags were everywhere displayed. Three hundred soldiers of the Fifth, Ninth, and Twenty-seventh, and other regiments, marched in gallant array, bearing aloft two large Union flags; the citizens followed. The women, who followed, bore a large, beautifully-ornamented banner, bearing this inscription:

Thus we welcome  
OUR HEROES  
Home from the wars.  
"Dulce est pro Patria Mori."

The translation is:

"It is sweet to die for one's country."

The original vignette above this motto was an eagle with the shield and flags, having beneath two soldiers' graves with cannon firing salutes over them, and a scroll with the words: "Here sleep the brave, by freedom blest."

After the feast of food came the feat of oratory. Mayor Woodward acted as toastmaster, and seventeen toasts were responded to in a most pleasing and instructive manner. Among the notables who were present and participated in this part of the program was Major-General Vandever, the gallant ex-colonel of the Ninth, who responded with a toast to "Civil Liberty," and Senator Beau, of Wisconsin, responded to "Our Union Army" in a magnificent effect. Both gentlemen did themselves proud and greatly gratified their appreciative audience. Of the local prominent speakers, the returned officers and soldiers were the conspicuous part; among them, Col. Jed Lake, Capt. D. S. Lee, Capt. L. S. Brooks, Capt. O. Whitney, Captain Sill, Lieut. W. G. Donnan and D. D. Holdridge.

The music was excellent, and everything passed off most satisfactorily. In the evening there was a grand ball at Morse's Hall, and by solicitation Senator Beau gave another address at the courthouse, and Mr. Curtis, Esq., of Kentucky, also spoke.

At Independence, September 23, 1865, there was a mass convention of returned soldiers, held at the courthouse, at which resolutions were unanimously adopted, declaring its allegiance and support of the republican party, and its ticket, in opposition to the democratic copperhead party, and refusing in any manner to co-operate with that party. Private George Heath acted as chairman, Lieut. J. L. Loomis, as secretary, Lieut. W. G. Donnan, Surgeon D. C.

Hastings and Private Emory S. Allen, were appointed the committee on resolutions. Word was received by Mr. W. H. Scott, of Quasqueton, that his son, Ira C. Scott, of the First Iowa Cavalry, had died in Texas. He was a splendid, strong, patriotic, Christian soldier, as testified by the letters from his comrades. He had written numerous letters to the papers, which showed superior mental attainments.

The Ninth Iowa Infantry, in accordance with the arrangements made previous to its disbandment, held a reunion of its members at Dubuque, November 8th, the object being a permanent organization, by which through annual reunions, friendly intercourse between members might be preserved.

Other organizations were effected later on, which finally culminated in the national organization, "The Grand Army of the Republic," to whose history in this county, we shall try to do full justice.

We have devoted this considerable amount of space to the War of the Rebellion, deeming it after the early settlements, the most important and the most interesting period of our national, state and county life, and we have tried, with infinite pains to give a clear, complete and impartial chronicle of those events in as near as possible a chronological order.

#### THE WOMEN'S PART OF THE WAR

If there is a more trying degree of patriotism than that which sent the young men of the country forth to battle, and likely die for their country, or suffer the privations and discomforts of camp life, it is the suppressed grief, too deep for utterance, the horrible suspense and ever-present anxiety, of the wives, mothers, sisters and dear ones compelled to remain at home. No language can portray, no pen describe the horrible, oppressive fear that never ceased to brood over the minds of the sufferers at home. The long, interminable years of waiting and watching must have taxed their human capacity for endurance to the very utmost. The only relief was in the necessary labor. Many were left with heavy burdens to bear in providing for the family, and with too much pride to accept assistance, struggled on with uncomplaining endurance. Many took the places of the volunteers in the fields and carried on the work of the farm unaided. These humble heroisms of the patient, and long-suffering women of the country, are as noble and exalted and as inspired with fervent patriotism, as ever impelled a soldier at the front, "to forward! charge!" the enemy, and really demanded more endurance of faith and hope. But like the noble heroisms of the private soldiers, they must forever remain unrecorded, except in the blessed memory of those veterans who yet remain with us, and whose suffering these "ministering angels," helped relieve, and except in the glorious result of that conflict, which we of today enjoy and must forever love and honor with patriotic gratitude.

During the war there were numerous societies which had their incentive in the desire to aid the soldiers at the front. The Soldiers' Aid Society of Independence was the first of these organizations; it was founded October 25, 1861. These societies were organized in almost every town and community in the county and did inestimable good with their liberal contributions of food, clothing and money, and their zeal and interest never for a moment abated. Certainly their efforts in bringing comfort and cheer to the well and alleviation to

the sick did more to keep up the courage of the soldiers at the front than all the Government provisions for them. A Soldiers' Relief Association also was formed in May, 1862, with many of the prominent citizens of the county in its membership. A Soldiers' Friend Association was organized in March, 1864, with the same motive as the other aid societies. A detailed account of the officers and work of these organizations is given in the history of the Civil war.

The women of Independence started an auxiliary to the Women's National Covenant Society, organized in Washington, D. C., for the purpose of dress reform. The movement had spread rapidly over the East and many of the most fashionable women in New York City signed the pledge not to buy any more silks, satins, velvets, fine laces and other luxuries. This was one of the many sacrifices which the women of the country took upon themselves to help alleviate the dire necessities of the army. And the women in Independence no less patriotic and philanthropic, although they did not indulge in extravagances, such as those rich eastern women did, yet were willing to sacrifice many pleasures and every possible personal vanity to aid the soldiers; and every woman certainly could deny herself something in the way of personal adornment.

Other societies formed in the county during the war were the U. L. A's, "United Loyal Americans," of which there were several councils. Wide Awake Clubs and a democratic secret society called Knights of the Golden Circle had lodges in both Quasqueton and Independence, but were not in existence long. These societies were supposed to be antagonistic to the administration and the war proceedings. A Wide Awake Club at Independence was organized in October, 1864. They elected the following officers: R. W. Wright, captain; R. Riddell, first lieutenant; J. M. Weart, second lieutenant; J. H. Cutter, orderly sergeant, and R. R. Plane, treasurer.

An incident shows the intense feeling which existed when Lincoln was assassinated. On Monday P. M., the following hand bill was circulated about town: "A Wretch—From the Dubuque Times of this A. M., April 17, 1865, Saturday, a female—a Mrs. Barelay—whose occupation is that of an itinerant lecturess, was on the southwestern train when the passengers received the news of the awful tragedy at Washington. On being told that President Lincoln was dead, she waved her hat and expressed delight at the news. The passengers were horror-stricken at her conduct and could find no language with which to express their detestation of her act. Think of it. A woman with a heart that delights in assassination. Lady Macbeth had a rival at last.

"That very woman was this morning driven out of Waterloo, whither the news of her conduct had followed her.

"That very woman is now in this city. Shall she here find a refuge? Citizens, what say you? Come to the mayor's office at 7 o'clock this evening and say."

In pursuance of this call a large concourse of all the leading men assembled at the mayor's office and appointed a committee, consisting of General Dickinson, Mayor Lee and Esquire Hart, to wait upon the woman at the Montour House and get her own statement of the facts. To them she denied waving her hat, but expressed the same sentiments as above indicated. By unanimous instructions from the meeting another committee thereupon warned her to leave

town by the Tuesday A. M. cars. And she went. Other cities would not house her and she was driven from pillar to post.

A strange fact connected with this incident was that this woman had been in Indiana some months previous, giving medical lectures to women in the Presbyterian Church. She was a doctor and her name was Mrs. F. M. Barclay, and by her instructions and whole appearance gained great favor with the leading ladies of the town. We are glad to see such a manly, decided manifestation of loyal pluck on the part of our citizens, etc. Let this example of just indignation be a timely warning to any among us who might be tempted to show secession proclivities. The next proper step should be to forbid any such paper as the Dubuque Herald to come into the town. \*The time has come to set down our foot and make short work with the rebellion and all its sympathizers. We would judge the woman an anarchist, but she proved to be a southerner.' Such vehement expositions bespeak a time when freedom of speech and the press were but a name and not an actual possession in this free land of ours.

At Quasqueton the Independent Sunday School adopted resolutions expressing their high regards, sympathy and interest in the superintendent, J. M. Benthall, and other members who had gone to the war. They lauded their courage and faithfulness to duty and promised their earnest prayers to God for the soldiers' protection and safe return. A copy of these resolutions was presented to each member when he left.

A most beautiful and touching tribute to be kept and cherished through all those weary, awful years and for all time to come. Lewis was promoted to sergeant-major. Colonel Worthington had highly complimented Company E on its fine officers.

#### INCIDENTS OF THE WAR

During the war the American Express Company removed their agent at Independence, Mr. Charles Taylor, and appointed Mr. Northup of Dubuque to the position. This change had been made at the interposition of a number of the citizens, who were unwilling that a company evidencing its loyalty so heartily as the American Express Company, should be represented here by a man whose sympathy and influence were with the enemies of the Government.

The incumbent, Mr. Taylor, denied these charges through the county papers and voiced a declaration of patriotic sentiment, but to no avail as far as his position was concerned, for he was not reinstated.

While the Fifth Iowa Regiment were encamped before New Madrid, their army rations for ten days consisted of but four crackers a day apiece, half rations of sugar, coffee made from water dipped up from wagon tracks and little puddles. Ten days of such living would certainly produce an epicurean taste for crackers and coffee at least, but the boys declared this muddy, slimy water made good coffee, which required no particular effort to swallow; it slipped down without even gulping.

The board of supervisors made a mistake in the provision for bounty, giving it solely to recruits for the new regiments and not to those enlisting in the old regiments. This mistake was rectified.

Mr. Irwin of the board of supervisors offered the following resolution which passed unanimously: "Resolved, By the Board of Supervisors of Buchanan

County, that we tender our thanks to the gallant boys of the Fifth and Ninth Regiments of Infantry, and all others who have received no bounty from this county, and that we will liberally reward them when the state of the finances of the county will permit." This was in lieu of the resolution offered by Mr. Rich to pay each and every volunteer \$50.

Parties were engaged in buying up at a discount the claims for county bounties some time since adjudicated by the Supreme Court as due certain soldiers in this county, but they were perfectly valid and would be paid by a tax levied in 1870.

During the War of the Rebellion Mr. G. Dickinson offered a half acre of land to any children or society that wished to plant it to some crop for the benefit of the soldiers and under the direction of either or both the Soldiers' Aid and Soldiers' Friend societies.

Small change became so scarce in the county in the fall of 1862 that the merchants began to issue checks. This was in direct violation of the law and subject to heavy penalty. It seemed impossible to get along without some substitute.

In October, 1904, occurred a reunion of the members of Company E, Ninth Iowa Infantry, residing in this vicinity at the home of G. B. Smeallie as guests of their comrade Nels Bennett. The day was pleasantly spent in recounting familiar experiences. A fact of special interest was that the location of their meeting place, the ground occupied by the old Smeallie residence in the Fifth Ward, was the old fair grounds, before the war, and where the soldiers first drilled. Out of the 175 men enlisted in that company during the war, which included the additional recruits, only about eighty comrades were living in 1904, and this number has greatly depleted during the last ten years. Only ten members were present for the reunion.





## CHAPTER X

### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

#### THE MILITIA—IN THE CAMPS—THE AUXILIARY

On Friday, April 22, 1898, Capt. H. A. Allen of Company E, having received orders from Adjutant-General Byers to be in readiness for immediate departure upon receipt of instructions by wire, called a meeting of the company and a physical examination was conducted by Dr. A. G. Shellito, appointed by the Government for that purpose. And this examination, conducted in accordance with the United States Army standard rules, revealed the fact that was already well established in the minds of the citizens of Independence that Company E was far above the average company. On Saturday morning, April 23d, Captain Allen received telegraphic instructions to lay in two days' rations. Upon receipt of this news everything was excitement and consternation and the town was like a disturbed beehive. Flags were unfurled and the national colors were displayed from all the business houses, so the citizens called a war meeting for that night at the Y. M. C. A. Building, situated in King's Opera House, where they might give vent to their belligerent feelings, which had been controlled and suppressed ever since the blowing up of the *Maine* and through those weeks of administrative ponderance and diplomatic delay which were so tedious and unbearable to the excited and combative population, who felt that justice and honor and a sacred trust compelled us to avenge our dead heroes, the cause of liberty and freedom, for a struggling, down trodden people, and to uphold the dignity and rights of the American Government. We had been deeply and grossly insulted as a nation, our citizens' rights and privileges ignored and defied and their homes and business interests in Cuba not only molested, but destroyed, and finally, to complete their list of offenses, the Spanish government (so the supposition was) had foully murdered, on shipboard, 166 of our marines by exploding a submarine mine which blew up the United States battleship *Maine*, anchored in the harbor of Havana. It had seemed that the deliberation and conservatism of the administration showed weakness and cowardice, and the President was sorely criticized and maligned, but after mature deliberation of years and an impartial view of the whole situation, it is almost universally conceded that President McKinley acted with the utmost wisdom and fairness, and set an example which has but recently been emulated by President Wilson in dealing with the Mexican situation.

This suspense and delay had but aggravated public sentiment and the populace and the soldiers were almost mutinous, so when the declaration of war was finally announced on April 19 the pent up feelings could scarcely be restrained.

And the citizens and soldiers of Independence were no exception to the general public in their opinions and conclusions.

At this war meeting feelings and opinions were vigorously expressed and patriotic sentiment grew in fervor and intensity.

Capt. H. W. Holman called the meeting to order. Company E, in full uniform and armed, occupied the place of interest and honor and never presented a finer or more soldierly appearance.

Col. Jed Lake was called to preside at the meeting, and when Old Glory was unfurled the enthusiastic crowd broke into a prolonged and inspired cheering such as the acoustic properties of King's old opera house had never been subjected to endure. Appropriate patriotic speeches were made by Col. Jed Lake, Capt. H. W. Holman, E. E. Hasner, Capt. W. H. Coy, ex-Senator Harmon, J. N. Bliff and J. W. Foreman, all veterans of the Civil war and heroes of the battlefields. The recounting of their army experiences and the excellent advice given by these men could not help but inspire and encourage them to noble service for their country. Captain Allen was then called upon and made a few remarks regarding his company in which he manifested such a laudable pride. Mr. Frank Jennings also made a few appropriate remarks and W. E. Jayne concluded the program by singing those stirring songs, "Marching Through Georgia" and "Rally Round the Flag, Boys," the audience joining in the choruses, at the conclusion of which the war meeting adjourned.

On Sunday evening patriotic services were observed in all the churches. Company E, attired in full uniform, attended the services at the Congregational Church in a body, where Rev. J. W. Horner delivered a very forceful and inspiring sermon. The church was profusely decorated with flags and patriotic music was a special feature. On Monday night, at 11:30 o'clock, Captain Allen received the final summons from the adjutant-general ordering the company to report at Des Moines the next day. The organization and arrangements were so complete that the Captain did not get up, and professed that he lost no sleep, nor was there any notice given to the men until the next morning.

On Tuesday morning Company E, First Regiment, I. N. G., thirty-five strong, departed for Camp McKinley at Des Moines to report for duty. They left amid the waving of flags, the cheers of the populace, the boom of cannon, and with the sound of patriotic music to inspire them. Every place of business and the public schools were closed for the occasion and every man, woman and child in the city who could possibly do so were present to participate in the farewell demonstration and make it a fitting tribute to the boys who were about to go forth to duty, and to death, if necessary. A scene, although fraught with the deepest feelings of sorrow and pain, yet, to look back upon with pride, and one that would give them renewed courage when the monotony of camp life or the duties of war created an almost irrepressible longing for home and loved ones. Nearly all the business places and the residences were decorated with flags and the streets at an early hour were thronged with people, although the train was not due to leave until 9:30 A. M. The boys were at the armory early and began their preparations for departure with the coolness and precision born of military training. The company was composed largely of some of the best young men in Independence, occupying enviable positions in both business and social circles and representatives of prominent families. They were young, too, averaging

some years the junior of the majority of companies. A short time before the west bound train was due the State Hospital Band appeared on the scene and discoursed patriotic airs in front of the armory, while the Occidental Band was stationed on Main Street and rendered a number of appropriate selections. The company fell into line and, under escort of the two bands and the G. A. R. veterans, marched to the depot, and there was enacted a scene such as occurred some thirty-seven years before, when the first volunteer company of the Rebellion departed for the field of battle. While it was a sad scene, it was also one of glory. Whatever the parting may have been at home, courageous hearts beat true and smiling good-bys were said as only brave women know how to say them when they give up their beloved husbands or offspring on the altar of their country, and the flood of tears came only with the departure of the last coach that bore them away.

At 10:30 they arrived in Waterloo and were met at the depot by a large delegation of citizens, who, through the committee, extended an invitation to the company to take dinner at the Logan House. They marched to the Chicago Great Western depot to dispose of their baggage and then reported on duty at the mess table, where their onslaughts, if judged by their ferocity and persistency, would indicate an endurance and capacity for "war-fare" that even a band of Indians might tremble at.

To show that these soldiers had been properly drilled and disciplined in the arts and artifices of army etiquette as well as manual of arms, they adopted appropriate resolutions thanking the citizens of Waterloo for their kindness and courtesy. They left Waterloo at 3:55 and arrived at Des Moines at 8:30 P. M. and at their quarters at 9:30. Camp McKinley was situated at the State Fair Grounds and four regiments were encamped there. Life at camp here was typical of all soldier's camps with its routine of camp duties, drills, physical examinations and the acquiring of recruits, arms and equipment and even though of comparatively short duration proved very irksome and monotonous to the boys who were anxious to be off to the front.

On April 27th, Governor Shaw issued a call for 1,200 men to fill out the regiments of the State Guard and authorized the sheriff to accept applications. The following morning he reported forty-one names to the governor, all of whom stood ready to respond when orders came. Many of these were from the smaller towns in the county.

Lieut. Ray Snow was detailed as recruiting officer and arrived home from Des Moines May 5th to recruit thirty-five men for Company E. His headquarters were at the armory and he completed his work and departed the next morning with thirty-five picked men, all of whom had passed the severe physical examination demanded by our Government.

Independence is never loath to giving praise and honor to her soldiers and when these last recruits departed, a large crowd of people assembled at the depot to say good-bye and show public appreciation for the prompt and eager response to their country's call. The Occidental Band was out in uniform and accompanied the boys to the depot where they cheered with lively patriotic airs.

Company E now had its full quota of men and would compare favorably with any Company at Camp McKinley. A report received home a few days after this, announced that every man and officer had passed all the examinations and

been accepted. Company E had the distinction of being the only company of the forty-eight encamped at Camp McKinley who could boast such a record. This was a most gratifying piece of news to the home folks and filled them with intense pride in the Independence company.

On Sunday, May 1st, the Illinois Central got up an excursion to Des Moines which was largely patronized all along the route. One hundred and eleven tickets were sold from Independence alone and every visitor was loaded with provisions and personal gifts to the boys of Company E. Two other excursions were conducted to the camp within a month and all were largely patronized. Earlier in the week a large box of provisions had been shipped to the company and arrived in time for a Sunday feast. A generous donation of money from the citizens of Independence had been sent the company by Mayor Miller. The people of Des Moines were extremely kind and generous to all the soldiers and particularly to Company E which they showered with attentions. All this time the President was issuing calls for more troops and the soldiers in camp were becoming more and more restive and anxious to depart. They had a trip to the Philippines selected for the Iowa soldier's duty but they were doomed to disappointment in this desire. The Fifty-second Iowa had already been moved to Chickamauga Park, Georgia, and it was rather conjectured that the other three regiments would be moved there, but the forty-ninth and fiftieth were sent to Jacksonville, Florida, and the fifty-first to the Philippines.

Company E then numbered seventy-two men but this number would be reduced to sixty-five men as specified by the Secretary of War as soon as they were mustered into the United States Service. Under a later order, each company was required to have 106 men. The company while in camp at Des Moines suffered comparatively little sickness, one case of pneumonia and one of measles were the only ones.

On June 2d, the company was mustered into the United States services as Company E of the Forty-ninth Iowa Volunteers.

The following is a complete muster roll of Company E with the highest title attained by each member during the enlistment :

#### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Captain, Hubert A. Allen, Independence.  
 First Lieutenant, Mitchell B. O'Brien, Independence.  
 Second Lieutenant, Raymond P. Snow, Independence.  
 Second Lieutenant, Frank A. Litts, Independence.

#### NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

First Sergeant, H. D. Chapman, Independence.  
 Sergeant, Robert T. Crawford, Independence.  
 Second Sergeant, C. G. Herrick, Independence.  
 Sergeant, Dolph A. Huene, Manchester.  
 Third Sergeant, W. H. Raymond, Independence.  
 Sergeant, Frank G. Romig, Independence.  
 Fourth Sergeant, E. F. Stevenson, Independence.

Fifth Sergeant, L. M. Freeman, Independence.  
 Sergeant, Frank F. Parker, Independence.  
 Sergeant, Harry Voorhees, Monticello.  
 Sergeant, Dan Leatherman, Independence.  
 Corporal, Charles H. Becker, Independence.  
 Corporal, Raleigh E. Buckmaster, Jesup.  
 Corporal, A. F. Dunham, Manchester.  
 Corporal, L. Elgin Elliott, Brandon.  
 Corporal, James J. Fitzgerald, Fairbank.  
 Corporal, Ledyard M. Freeman, Independence.  
 Corporal, Barney M. Gibson, Independence.  
 Corporal, Jesse E. Griffith, Independence.  
 Corporal, Frank Hageman, Eagle Grove.  
 Corporal, William A. Houser, Manchester.  
 Corporal, Clinton E. Howell, Independence.  
 Corporal, James P. McGuire, Independence.  
 Corporal, Guy E. Miller, Independence.  
 Corporal, Jesse H. Montgomery, Des Moines.  
 Corporal, Jerald B. Paul, Manchester.  
 Corporal, John W. Petrie, Independence.  
 Corporal, J. Dell Skinner, Manchester.  
 Corporal, Orville D. Wescott, Gladbrook.  
 Corporal, Jesse O. Young, Manchester.  
 Musician, Walter Mitchell, Oelwein.  
 Musician, Bert Slaughter, Winthrop.  
 Musician, Elbert P. Trowbridge, Manchester.  
 Wagoner, R. M. Dawes, Independence.  
 Wagoner, Oliver D. Marquette, Independence.  
 Artificer, Ray H. Thompson, Independence.  
 Artificer, Arthur D. Van Eman, Jesup.  
 Cook, Joseph F. Imholtz, Dyersville.

## PRIVATES

S. N. Adams, Rowley; W. W. Armstrong, North English; C. R. Brandt, Dubuque; John Budu, Dyersville; Frank Burns, Independence; John Christiansen, Independence; J. T. Condon, Chamberlain, S. D.; G. F. Cross, Manchester; J. M. Cunningham, Bancroft; C. H. Decker, Jesup; C. A. Dickerson, Jesup; W. E. Dorman, Manchester; A. E. Dornes, Dyersville; C. D. Elder, Manchester; James Elliott, Jesup; W. M. Geist, Independence; W. E. Glenny, Independence; H. L. Golden, Jesup; Mons Granning, Thor; F. J. Greany, Independence; R. E. Guernsey, Independence; A. L. Hartman, Jesup; C. C. Heath, Manchester; C. W. Helmick, Independence; Benjamin Hieber, Cedar Falls; G. C. Hintz, Independence; George W. Ishmael, St. Paul, Minn.; William Ives, Independence; C. E. Jones, Independence; J. R. King, Hazleton; James Leehey, Fairbank; George D. Lepien, Fargo, Mich.; Edward W. Lizer, Jesup; Commodore P. Lusk, Manchester; Roy A. Luther, Independence; Frank J. McKray, Greeley; George H. Malvern, Manchester; William J. Malvin, Man-

chester; William Marks, Thorpe; Nels Martinsen, Des Moines; Walter D. Mat-  
 tice, Hazleton; Curt Mellis, Hazleton; Alvin Menzel, Delaware; John Metzler,  
 Earlville; C. A. Miller, Manchester; R. C. Moffett, Hudson; R. E. Moffit, Jesup;  
 Delos Moore, Manchester; George Muxlow, Independence; L. F. E. Nehls, Inde-  
 pendence; R. W. E. Nehls, Independence; C. J. Nelson, Independence; O. E.  
 Nelson, Independence; Lawrence O'Brien, Independence; Floyd A. Peet,  
 Lamont; John R. Preble, Hazleton; E. M. Price, Otterville; Christopher Quigley,  
 Fairbank; J. W. Ray, Greeley; Max E. Rehberg, Rowley; L. V. Roberts, Inde-  
 pendence; F. W. Shafer, Sunnyside, Ohio; Albert Staehle, Earlville; D. E. Tay-  
 lor, Jesup; F. L. Thomas, Independence; H. E. Tunks, Jesup; F. R. Washburn,  
 Independence; R. S. Washburn, Independence; A. J. Webber, Manchester; M.  
 A. Wolcott, Independence.

At the final examinations seven Independence boys were rejected and although  
 they deeply regretted their inability to serve they came home in good spirits.

On the 10th of June, the Forty-ninth was ordered to Jacksonville, Florida.  
 On Saturday, June 11th, a delegation of 160 persons from Independence went  
 to Waterloo to visit with the company during their hour and a half stay in that  
 city on their way south. The troops were royally entertained all along the  
 route to Dubuque. Again the people of Waterloo served them a splendid dinner,  
 at which, the young ladies of Independence were invited to serve Company E,  
 a delicious supper was served by the generous citizens of Oelwein and at Dubuque  
 they were furnished tempting boxes of lunch. They arrived at Jacksonville,  
 Florida, on the 14th day of June and were assigned to the Seventh Army Corps  
 under Gen. Fitz Hugh Lee. This corps was destined for the attack on Havana.

Sergt. Eber Stevenson was left as recruiting agent with headquarters at  
 Waterloo and by the last of June had secured twenty more boys from Buchanan  
 County. Immediately they left for Jacksonville, Florida, to join Company E.  
 Here they remained for about sixteen weeks in probably the worst and most  
 unsanitary camp which the United States Government ever maintained. Camp  
 Cuba Libre as it was called was situated in a low, marshy ground near Jackson-  
 ville and with the new and unusual climatic conditions with which to become  
 acclimated, the recurrent rains and lack of drainage, the "medicated rations"  
 furnished by the Government, and the germ laden drinking water, an epidemic  
 of typhoid and malaria fevers broke out in camp. On August 18th, the camp  
 was moved involving a march of a mile and one-half and with the labor of  
 moving tents, etc., while this change would undoubtedly prove beneficial in  
 the end, it seemed to utterly prostrate many of those with the fever lurking in  
 their systems. Company E was one of these.

The report came to Independence that forty of the company were sick—  
 fifteen in the hospital and three could not possibly live. Naturally this caused  
 intense anxiety and telegrams were hurriedly sent to the captain to inquire  
 and verify or rectify the statement and his response that thirty-two were sick—  
 none serious, although bad enough, was some relief to the friends and relatives.  
 W. F. Miller, editor of the Independence Conservative, visited the camp to ascer-  
 tain the facts and reported the conditions better than the circulated reports.  
 He found the Forty-ninth Regiment Camp far better than several others that  
 he visited. The reason for the three Companies, A, E, and K being the worst  
 afflicted with disease was that they had each been assigned to Provost duty—

outside of camp and despite strict orders of the regimental and company officers against it, many of the soldiers bought pies and fruit from the negro trucksters and drank the surface water and lemonade made of it. All these things but aggravated conditions that were bad at best. Many were given a month's furlough home to recuperate. After such a contagion of sickness broke out the Government did everything in its power to alleviate the sick and improve conditions but it was too late to make amends for the havoc already wrought. The Government was not entirely responsible for this but as in every case of neglect and mismanagement somebody had failed to do his duty—somebody had blundered.

The first death of a member of Company E was that of Edward Lizer. He having died of the typhoid fever at Jacksonville, August 24, 1898. He contracted measles and while at Camp McKinley, at Des Moines, was seriously ill but recovered sufficiently to accompany the regiment to Florida. The change of climate was too severe for his delicate constitution and typhoid fever symptoms developed from which he succumbed. The first Independence boy to die was Morse Wolcott who succumbed to typhoid fever Friday, September 23d. This was particularly depressing on all those who had boys sick. Morse was a general favorite and one of the most popular members of the company and the fact that he had been reported convalescing and practically out of danger but intensified the grief and anxiety. He was buried with military honors and an escort of the E. C. Little Post, G. A. R. and his own comrades participated in the ceremonies. The Ladies Auxiliary of Company E had appropriately decorated the grave with flowers and flags. Otto Neilson was the next brave hero—to answer the last summons. He also succumbed to the ravages of typhoid fever, dying at the hospital at Jacksonville, Thursday, October 20, having been sick and left there when the regiment was moved to Savannah.

John Herbert Tiffany, another Buchanan County soldier, but not a member of Company E, died October 7th, at the home of his sister at DeKalb, Ill., and was buried at his old home in Independence. He was in Chicago when the call for volunteers came and enlisted in Company G, First Illinois Infantry, which on June 19th was sent to Santiago, where he was detailed as a nurse at Sibony. He served faithfully until he contracted yellow fever and was later sent home on furlough. After his arrival home the exertion of a march from the depot to the armory brought on typhoid fever from which in his already weakened condition he could not rally. We mention these four deaths because they were the first and possibly received more attention than the ten or eleven that followed in quick succession. In October, the regiments encamped at Jacksonville, were ordered to Savannah, Georgia, there to await transport to Cuba. In spite of so much sickness and death the spirits of the boys never lagged and their courage and optimism were something to be marveled at, judging from their letters and personal interviews. The arduous monotony of camp life at Jacksonville was sometimes relieved by entertainments of the soldier's own initiative. The Forty-ninth Regiment was particularly versatile in their productions and gave several creditable affairs. A minstrel show under the direction of Captain Allen was decidedly clever. About four hundred of the city folks, most of them ladies, besides the members of the regiment witnessed the performance. It was a decided success and proved that there was much latent talent among these soldier

boys. They arrived at their new camp, October 26th, and the beneficial results were noticeable immediately. The camp grounds were situated about two miles from the city but near a street car line. The women of Savannah with characteristic hospitality gave the soldiers a grand Thanksgiving dinner and as long as they remained there they received the kindest and most generous treatment. J. M. Romig on behalf of the relatives and friends of Company E wrote a letter in which he expressed their gratitude and appreciation of the kind and generous treatment accorded our soldiers by the ladies of Savannah. This letter was printed in Savannah dailies.

Along about the 3d of December, the second division of the Seventh Army Corps consisting of about seven thousand men of which company E was a part, and under command of Gen. Fitz Hugh Lee, had received orders to embark for Cuba, Tuesday, December 6th, but this was postponed a day or two, the regiment being held to be reviewed by President McKinley. The regiment had been equipped with new rifles commonly called "Krag Jorgensons," and were ready to move as soon as the "big dress parade" was over. Six big transports conveyed the soldiers to Cuba, one the transport Panama was the first important prize captured from the Spanish during the war, and was occupied by General Lee, his staff, orderlies, and clerks. Company E landed in Havana on the 23d day of December and immediately marched into camp which was situated in the hills about four miles from the city on account of yellow fever being prevalent in the city. The camp was located on a high hill over-looking the Straits of Florida and about two miles from it.

The roads were in a terrible condition, which made marching a hard proposition, but a railroad was near by for emergencies.

A few days later, December 26th, about the time things were getting settled, Company E received orders to proceed to guard some sea coast batteries near the city which the Spaniards had just evacuated. Their headquarters were at Vedado and Company E had the distinction of being the first volunteer company situated in the city. The impressive ceremony of lowering the Spanish flag and hoisting the stars and stripes over the Spanish forts and public buildings was not only witnessed but participated in by the Seventh Army Corps under General Lee and was stationed in front of the governor general's palace (which was the greatest center of attraction), they passed in review and paraded while the Cubans, although they were forbidden to parade themselves, had collected en masse and were exultant with joy, crying "Vive los Americanos."

The last day of the year, 1898, found Company E encamped in the suburbs of Havana detailed to guard some fifteen forts and batteries which had been recently evacuated and surrendered by the Spaniards, eight forts, among them the celebrated Moro Castle, Pricpe Castle, La Renie, Punta Brava, and Santa Clara, were included. These forts, many of them hundreds of years old and one covering about twenty acres, built of huge stones and containing an endless chain of galleries, chambers, and corridors, with a perfect network of underground passages and cells, was a revelation to the soldier boys of a new country.

While Buchanan County was largely represented in Cuba, still it was not without representatives in other foreign ports. C. A. Anderson, of Rowley, a member of Company I, Fifty-first Iowa Infantry, United States Volunteers, was stationed at Manila. He left the United States November 3d, and anchored in



Manila Bay, December 7, 1898, and was on board the transport almost all the time for ninety-five days. He was afterwards in a fight around San Roque, where the insurgents endeavored to lay a trap for the Americans by showing the white flag.

The Fifty-first Regiment, of which his company was a part, chased the enemy six miles through swamp and brush seemingly impassable. The ambush and guerrilla warfare continued for days and weeks but with very little loss of life to the Americans.

Another former Independence boy, Ensign Harry Yarnell, was fortunate enough, on his first cruise to be on board the United States Battleship Oregon, when she made her memorable trip from San Francisco to Key West, from there she was despatched to join Sampson's fleet in blockading Santiago De Cuba. (Admiral Schley's fleet was also stationed there doing blockading duty.) Shortly after this the Oregon participated in the famous battle of Santiago Bay on July 3d, and to her was accredited the glory of running down and capturing the Spanish ship Colon. During the battle of Santiago, Yarnell had charge of one of the big guns on the Oregon and so experienced the thrill of real war. His letters to his uncle, David Neidigh, of Independence, gave a very graphic and entertaining account of the long, tedious trip around Cape Horn and of the exciting and brilliant battle of Santiago Bay. Lieut. Dewitt Blamer, another Independence boy, was, during the war, an ensign on the United States training ship Alliance, stationed at Fortress Monroe, and just after was transferred from the ship Buffalo on service at Manila to the Boston, one of the best boats in Admiral Dewey's fleet which was then stationed at Haila.

Company E remained on duty in the City of Havana for several weeks and was finally relieved by a regiment of heavy artillery and from there the company was ordered into Camp Columbia, with their regiment. They were in camp a few days when the regiment was ordered on a ten days' expedition to Penier Del Rio. Their first stop was in San Antonio about thirty miles west of Havana, where they remained for four or five days, from there they marched to the Town of Alquizar and back, a distance of eighteen miles. While in Alquizar, on the 24th of February, Company E witnessed the celebration of the fourth anniversary of the starting of the Cuban army of Havana (and Gomez entering the city was received with wild enthusiasm) the event was celebrated by a parade and general patriotic demonstrations all over Cuba. Saturday, the 25th, the whole brigade was received before the alcalde (mayor) and other prominent citizens, a courtesy extended which to the Cubans was very condescending on the part of the Americans, so the soldiers thought.

About the 1st of April, word was received from Company E that the Forty-ninth would soon be mustered out. The eagerly awaited orders for the return of the Forty-ninth were soon received and the next letter home gave the exact date for sailing which was to be Wednesday, April 5th, but several things intervened and Company E unfortunately did not get off with the rest and was one of the last companies to leave the island. They did not get away until Saturday night on the leased Ward liner City of Havana. After a stormy voyage full of unusual disastrous experiences, they anchored in the Savannah River at Sandusky, where they landed on Monday night, April 10th, for fumigation and from there into a five days' quarantine; then went into their old camp again at Savannah, Ga.,

where on Saturday, May 13th, the company was mustered out and immediately were given transportation home where they arrived Tuesday, May 16th.

Immediately upon receiving the intelligence that Company E was soon to be expected home, the executive committee of the Ladies' Auxiliary and one appointed by the mayor met to make arrangements for a grand reception to be tendered the company upon their arrival home and the plans when completed included a reunion of the veterans of 1861 and 1898 at the Gedney Opera House, a banquet at the Munson Building for all the members of the company and their wives followed by a reception and camp-fire at the Opera House, and this to be concluded with a grand ball at the Munson building. The carrying out of these plans was left in charge of seven committees, finance, reception and programs, decoration, instrumental music, vocal music and banquet, and when these committees had completed their plans the arrangements to the simplest details were complete. Bright and early Tuesday morning the people of Independence began to decorate and get ready to welcome home Company E; long before the train time not only Main Street but the whole town was embowered with flags and flowers. Everyone was in a state of joyful expectancy with the exception of those to whom the event brought the saddest recollections of those who had been mustered out by the hand of death, and would never be welcomed home again. The town was full of people and at 9 A. M. the crowd proceeded to the Illinois Central Depot to extend the glad hand. As is usual upon such occasions the train was over an hour late but there was no complaint about this, everyone was too happy for the small difference of an hour to be noticed and the enthusiasm of the crowd never for a moment abated.

Mr. Mike Goodwin was on hand, just as Col. E. Heege had been upon a similar occasion thirty-four years before, to boom forth a resounding welcome with the old Independence cannon. This he kept up at frequent intervals, until the smoke of the big engine coming up over the eastern incline gave the signal for a regular bombastic explosion of noise—pandemonium reigned unchecked. It has been claimed by persons of reliability and broad intelligence in such matters, that the Independence fire-whistle can or does come nearer raising the dead than any other instrument of torture ever invented and it never did better service. Every school bell, every factory whistle, big cannon crackers and every available means of noise was employed to do justice to the occasion while the cannon and the Hospital and Occidental bands lent their best efforts to the cause. Three special cars brought besides Company E, the Waterloo and Charles City Companies. Record has it that Lieutenant Hobson's osculatory greeting by the women wasn't "in it" with that accorded Company E.

The program was carried out the next day as planned. R. W. Terrill, department commander of the G. A. R., presided, many notable men were present and spoke, among them Hon. A. S. Blair, Hon. Ed. P. Seeds, Col. J. H. Peters, Hon. W. H. Norris, all of Manchester, and Dr. G. W. Bothwel, of Fairbank, and the local speech makers and old soldiers were a conspicuous part of the program.

The address of welcome at the evening reception was given by Hon. T. E. McCurdy, of Hazleton, and responded to by Capt. H. A. Allen. The Jesup boys stopped off at Independence for the day and when they reached home on Tuesday night, May 16th, a similar celebration took place. All the citizens, the G. A. R. and W. R. C., the school children and teachers and the band were at the depot to



MIKE GOODWIN AND BILLY  
HUGHES FIRING A SALUTE ON  
DEPARTURE OF COMPANY E



WAITING RETURN OF COMPANY  
E, 49TH IOWA VOLUNTEERS



DEPARTURE OF COMPANY E, 49TH  
IOWA VOLUNTEERS



give them a royal welcome home, the band played, the children sang and everybody shouted. On Wednesday night a reception and banquet was held at the beautiful home of L. S. Hovey and an invitation was extended to Captain Allen and wife.

Just the day after the company reached home a telegram was received announcing the death of Ray Moffitt on the day previous, in the hospital at Camp Onward, Savannah.

On Friday, May 26, 1899, the Woman's Relief Corps of Manchester, gave a reception to Company E; a large crowd composed of the soldiers, their friends and the Occidental Band accepted of their hospitality.

The town was handsomely decorated, and did itself proud in the matter of entertaining. A fine dinner and a reception, with music and speeches, followed by a ball in the evening, filled the day with pleasure. Company E gave a public drill in answer to requests, which showed them to be in a splendid state of efficiency.

A very handsome quilt into which was worked the names of all the company was presented to Captain Allen by the Corps.

During the actual period of service Company E lost nine men, two more dying very soon after the muster out, two in a few weeks after from disease contracted in the army, and another, Roy Guernsey, who was a member in the Signal Service Corps, making fourteen in all. We have mentioned only the first few deaths, as it grew to be almost a weekly occurrence that some member of Company E had succumbed to the ravages of typhoid fever; some of whom were residents of Delaware County, but members of Company E. Delaware County had fifteen representatives in Company E.

That the company made an enviable record is attested by the fact that they were a part of the First Provost Guard that the Seventh Army Corps ever had, and in recognition of their fine work there they were selected out of the entire Seventh Army Corps to receive the evacuation and surrender of the Spanish forts, where they guarded millions of dollars worth of property. At the official surrender, which took place on the 1st day of January, the company furnished mounted orderlies for the commanding general of the army, and the governor general of the island, and took part in the ceremonies incident to the surrender.

The company had on its roll during the period of service a total of 108 men and four officers. During the stay at Jacksonville the company suffered from an epidemic of typhoid fever and lost a large number of men—fourteen in all. Scarcely any one in the company escaped a fit of sickness, and at one time out of the 106 men and three officers composing the company there were eighty-three men sick or on sick furlough.

This was a very trying time for the men and their people at home, as the Government had not made provisions for any such amount of sickness. Sick men were often compelled to lie on the ground while awaiting arrangements for a bed, and there were no nurses other than men detailed for that work. These men were entirely, or in a great majority of cases, without any experience whatever.

It was necessary for the company commander during this period to supply his sick with ice, milk, eggs, and such articles as typhoid patients required, as the Government had made no provision for these articles until the latter part of

September, when it was arranged so we could draw 60 cents per day, in lieu of the ration, for the sick. The company commander had no fund with which to pay for this except such as had been contributed by the citizens of the home town and his own pocket book, neither of which was ample to meet the calls. There were many cases of hardship and unnecessary suffering at that time, and calls upon private funds which were rightfully matters which the Government should have taken care of.

It was satisfactorily demonstrated in the Spanish-American war that our country was in a state of utter unpreparedness and that such a condition shows not only the rankest folly but criminal neglect is not questioned. But we do not think that the unprepared condition of the Government is entirely responsible for the direful result. We believe that the long list of casualties, not of actual warfare but of disease proves not the necessity of more armoured cruisers, more standing armies and greater armament, but the demand for less red tape, more concerted action and less jealousy and irresponsibility among the Government officials and all those in authority. The whole responsibility of that lamentable calamity in that germ infested camp at Jacksonville rests upon the officials who selected such an unsanitary and unhealthy location and with those who failed to see the consequence or to act. It certainly would not take either an army surgeon or a United States army inspector to decide that the swamps of Florida were not a fit camping place for northern soldiers and that alligators and farmer boys are not homogeneous.

But from whatever cause or condition, these brave soldiers sacrificed their lives to their country's cause and although it was not in the glory of battle with the inspiration and stimulus of active service to goad them on, nor in the gloom of death and defeat, who shall decide which is harder to endure? Let him who has witnessed the two decide—death on a glorious battle field or on a hospital cot—and justice and honor will demand that as much respect be shown the heroes of 1898 as of 1861.

#### NAMES OF SOLDIERS WHO DIED

Company E: Morse A. Wolcott, private, September 23d, at Camp Cuba Libre, of typhoid.

Charles Helmick, private, September 5th, at Camp Cuba Libre, of malarial remittant.

William E. Dorman, private, September 20th, at Camp Cuba Libre, of typhoid.

Alonzo L. Hartman, private, September 10th, at Camp Cuba Libre, of typhoid.

Edward W. Lizer, private, August 24th, at Camp Cuba Libre, of typhoid

Frank J. McKray, private, October 13th, at Camp Cuba Libre, of typhoid.

Otto E. Nelson, private, October 20th, at Camp Cuba Libre, of typhoid.

Roy Guernsey (detailed in signal corps), at sea, en route to Havana, January 15th, of pneumonia.

Ray Moffitt, at Camp Onward, May 16th, of typhoid.

## "IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN"

When the call to arms was issued by President McKinley, it seemed as though the whole nation rose as one man, there was an embarrassment of riches and the difficulty was, not how to secure soldiers, but to choose out of the myriads offered—Iowa was called upon for three regiments and a most perplexing problem was put to Governor Shaw to solve. Which of the four Iowa Volunteer Regiments would be sent home when all were so eager to go. It undoubtedly caused the governor many sleepless nights and the possible effect on the coming campaign much anxiety to the politicians. And the conclusion that the Forty-ninth Regiment, of which Company E was a part (being under command of the junior colonel), should be dismissed was a terrible disappointment to the soldiers. But through the personal efforts of several influential men (with the associate editor of the Des Moines Register) as prime mover, the consent of the governor was obtained to let them intercede on behalf of the regiment. Telegrams were sent back and forth to the state representative at Washington, D. C., but the reply came back that no change could be made, as there were so many states asking for changes in their quotas that the War Department did not dare to show any partiality. That same evening, April 29th, the particular friends of the forty-ninth held a meeting at the Savery Hotel, at which Bernard Murphy of Vinton presided. Nearly all the cities which had companies in the regiment were represented. Governor Shaw was besought to change the ruling made by his adjutant general. Never were such appeals made to the governor and all this time the friends and relatives of the companies were praying that their own boys would be the ones sent home.

The session at the hotel lasted until after mid-night and probably no more impassioned speeches were ever uttered on Iowa soil. Some of the speakers almost threatened the governor with a rebellion, but he held his ground firmly with the decision of the committee and the friends of the other regiments were just as insistent.

Finally when all hope seemed past, Mr. Lafe Young, who was present suggested that another appeal be made to Washington and he believed if enough pressure was brought to bear on the Washington delegation that they might win their point. It was a desperate case and demanded a desperate appeal, and already prepared for the emergency, he pulled out of his pocket the following telegram which was forwarded to Washington: Des Moines, April 29, 1898, Hon. William B. Allison, Hon. J. A. T. Hull, Washington, D. C. "After exhausting every power of compromise, we find there is no possible way out of our trouble, except by calling for full regiments of infantry. Any other course now would create such a ruction as we nor you have never known in Iowa. For God's sake see Secretary of War at once. Four full regiments would only exceed quota by 200. If necessary, drop out call for light infantry artillery. You can not imagine the excitement here in the state."

The telegram was signed largely by prominent men and had the desired result. Secretary Alger telegraphed accepting four instead of three regiments, and the work of organization began at once.

After reading the above paragraph, with its painfully suggestive heading, the deplorable result of that well intentioned effort on the part of the regiments'

friends strikes us with particular force. For while the forty-ninth lost not a single man in battle during that short service over sixty were sacrificed to disease (some few dying soon after being mustered out) over fifty of whom died of typhoid fever contracted from unsanitary conditions of the camp at Jacksonville and impure food and water. Every company in the regiment lost from two to a dozen men. Of this total number, Company E had several more than any other company (due possibly to their youth and inexperience).

The experiences of this company were very similar to those of Company D, Forty-seventh Regiment under command of Captain Herrick in the War of the Rebellion. They were part of the one hundred day men and were stationed at Helena, Arkansas, where they suffered an epidemic of fever and bowel trouble.

Another coincidence (if the former can be called one), is that the first company that left Independence for the front in the Civil war was also Company E.

At the time when the Fiftieth and Fifty-second Iowa Regiments were mustered out of the service (in October, 1898), the same influential friends who had procured the acceptance of the forty-ninth by the Government, made intercession to the President to have the regiment relieved of duty and sent home. Much force was brought to bear to influence this move, but evidently their good intentioned interference was not appreciated for when the regiment was notified of this, they sent a delegation from Camp Cuba Libre to Washington to personally entreat President McKinley to let them remain in the service until the war was over if by any possibility their services would be required. This showed real soldier spirit. President McKinley was very gratified and pleased with the attitude of the Forty-ninth Iowa and wrote a most commendatory letter to Governor Shaw, expressing his appreciation and admiration of them, which is cherished in the state archives.

#### COMPANY E AUXILIARY

On Friday evening, May 6th, the ladies of Independence met at the Munson building and organized the Company E Auxiliary, to aid not only Company E and the First Regiment, but to render assistance whenever and wherever it may be needed. The organization was completed by the election of the following officers: President, Dr. Georgia A. Nims; vice president, Caroline Littell, treasurer, Katharyn Allen; corresponding secretary, Elizabeth Rodney; recording secretary, Harriet Lake; ex-officio members, executive committee, Mesdames H. A. Allen and A. J. Klocker; a soliciting board composed of a member from each ward, Kate Rodney, First Ward; Carrie Steinmetz, Second Ward; Kate Clarke, Third Ward; Mabel Palmer, Fourth Ward; and Ida Littlejohn, Fifth Ward. The regular meetings were held the first and third Friday evenings in each month.

The initiation fee was 50 cents and was used to establish a working fund and any patriotic woman, young or old, was eligible to membership. Colonel Dows, Major Clarke and Captain Allen were informed that the services of this society were at their disposal. The first call for aid was from General Lincoln, through the Des Moines Sanitary Commission and in response to this 117 gingham pillow-slips, and 73 "housewives" or needle, thread, and button cases, were sent to Company E. The second request from Company E for granite plates and cups for the new recruits to supplement the tin which had already rusted was



promptly complied with, also one from Surgeon Clarke of the First Regiment for pillow casings and sheets to supply nine beds in the Regimental hospital. So far every demand made upon this society was promptly responded to and their powers of assistance were limited only by the funds in the treasury. The next donation to the army by this zealous society was 174 abdominal bands. When the boys left Des Moines, the Auxiliary raised \$150 which they forwarded to Captain Allen to be held as a sick fund, which fund by being economically disbursed, lasted many weeks.

The reported sickness prevalent in Company E aroused the sympathies of the entire community and enlisted the Auxiliary to greater effort. They made prompt appeal to the citizens for subscriptions and met with a liberal response. In a short time they had raised \$79.00 which was turned over to Mayor W. F. Miller to forward.

The Auxiliary did excellent and efficient work all the time the soldiers were in the South, and finished their career with the grand reception tendered the company on their return home.

This band of loyal women were tested in a small degree as their mothers had been before them, during the awful and trying years of the Civil war—and the balance scale found them not wanting in patriotic zeal and fervor.



## CHAPTER XI

### MISCELLANEOUS MILITARY AFFAIRS

THE ARMY AND NAVY—THE GUARDS—THE MILITIA—CAMP WOLCOTT

BUCHANAN COUNTY'S REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ARMY AND NAVY

The first representative Independence had to the Government School at West Point and Annapolis was Eugene Woodruff. He received the appointment while in the Union army and entered West Point July 1, 1862, and graduated seventh in his class in 1866, was commissioned as second lieutenant in the Engineer Corps and in about two years was promoted to first lieutenant. He held various important charges and in 1871 was transferred to Major Howell's department with headquarters at New Orleans, and continued in that department until the time of his death.

In the fall of 1871 he was sent by Major Howell to make a thorough survey of the "raft obstructions" in the Red River, with the view of their removal if found practicable and the opening of the channel. On the strength of his report of the survey in the spring of 1872, Congress made an appropriation of \$150,000 to become available for the commencement of operations on July 1, 1872. Lieutenant Woodruff was sent North by Major Howell to organize an expedition and purchase a "snag boat" and the other necessary material for carrying on the work. He had charge of the survey and of two operations for the removal of the raft, making his own plans. The work of the expedition commenced in December, 1872, with headquarters at Shreveport, Louisiana. He also had charge of the operations for removing obstructions in Cypress Bayou, Texas, the survey of which included a chain of lakes connecting this bayou with the Red River about two miles above Shreveport.

George S. Woodruff, brother of Lieutenant Woodruff, joined the latter at St. Louis in the month of September, 1872, as clerk and steward of the snag boat and private secretary to his brother and continued with the expedition until its work was accomplished. After the death of Lieutenant Woodruff he was appointed lieutenant by Major Howell and remained acting in that capacity to the entire satisfaction of the department until it disbanded on April 1, 1874. The channel was opened to investigation through its entire length in November, 1873, for the first time in thirty years. This was the last great work in which Lieutenant Woodruff was officially engaged and in which he won an almost world wide fame as an engineer.

At that time Shreveport was undergoing a terrible scourge of yellow fever and the expedition of which he had charge was some fifty-seven miles above

that ill-fated city. Upon visiting the city on business, and unaware that the epidemic had broken out, he found the city panic stricken. The citizens, as many as could get away, fled for their lives, and hundreds sick and dying, with little or no attention to their wants. His generous sympathetic nature could not hear without heeding the appeal of suffering and dying humanity. He joined the Howard Association and, forgetting his business, devoted himself with tireless assiduity with the relief of the sick and thereby did untold good and in all probability saved many lives. Thus he labored for one week, when he himself was taken down with the disease. After three or four days he was pronounced convalescent but many patients were sick and dying in the house where he was and the excitement and exposure proved too much for his over-taxed system and he suffered a relapse and died on the 30th of September. His funeral was marked with general grieving and as though a public calamity. About a year after his death the citizens of Shreveport erected a beautiful monument to his memory.

Others who have been appointed from Independence are as follows:

Wells Woods was appointed to West Point sometime in the eighties but did not complete the course.

Dewitt Blamer was appointed to Annapolis in 1887. His standings while at Annapolis were always high—he ranked fourth in a class of seventy. After graduation he was on a three years' cruise along the Pacific Coast.

Harry Yarnell was appointed to Annapolis in 1893, graduated in June, 1897, and began his two years' cruise around the world. He was on board the Oregon when she made her memorable trip around the Horn.

On June 10 and 11, 1896, competitive examinations were conducted at Waterloo for the military appointment to West Point and all the honors were carried away by Independence boys. Out of twenty-three candidates competing, Carlos E. Jones won first honors and received the conditional appointment. Harry E. Jones won second place and Herbert Higbee, third place.

Owing to minor defects of the first two appointees the choice fell to Herbert Higbee who availed himself of the opportunity. He was one of the thirty-three of a class of ninety-six who passed the rigid requirements. He was a student at the school for two years and on account of some class trouble did not complete the course.

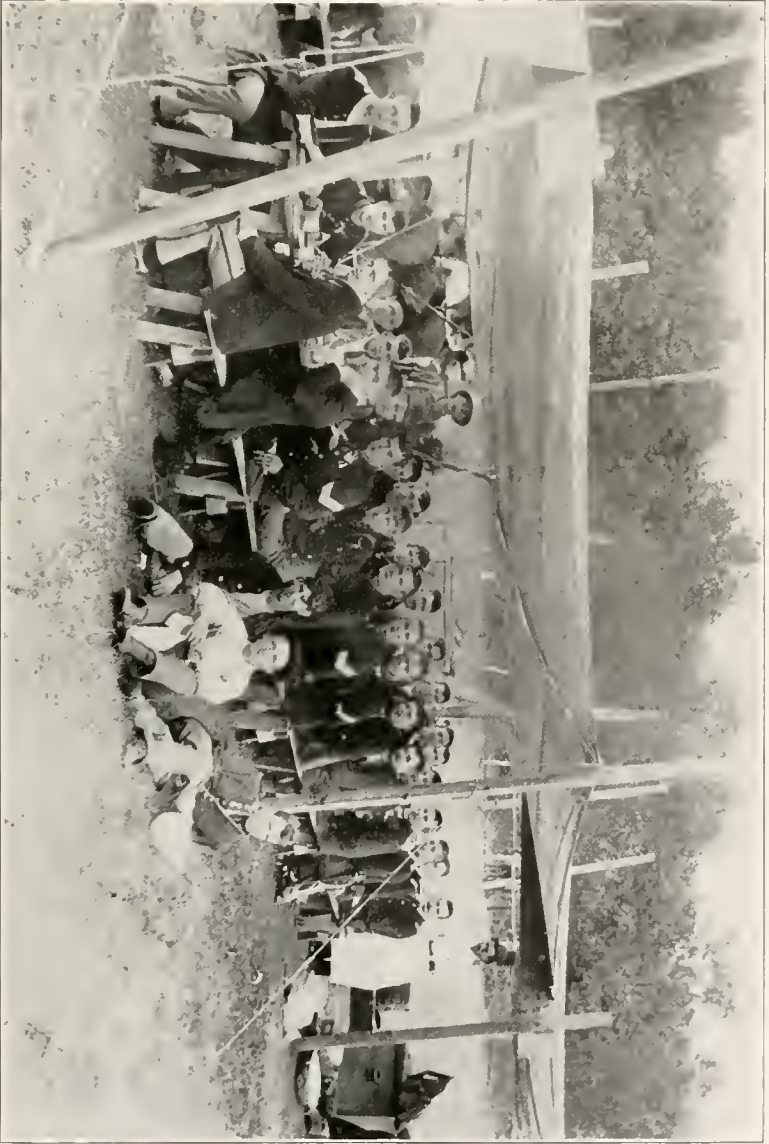
Ernest McKee, an Independence boy, who afterwards became a resident of Howard, South Dakota, passed the examinations and received the appointment in 1904, as midshipman, by Senator A. B. Kittredge and is now second lieutenant on board the Texas, which was stationed at Vera Cruz, Mexico.

Paul Goen was appointed to the Naval Academy in 1912 by Rep. C. E. Picket and has enjoyed two cruises.

#### THE INDEPENDENCE GUARDS

Company H, I. N. G., was organized in Independence in July, 1877. The first captain was Fred Merrill. The following officers were elected: Captain, F. C. Merrill; first lieutenant, E. E. Hasner; second lieutenant, E. B. Backus; first sergeant, H. S. Palmer; second sergeant, C. E. Purdy; third sergeant, Frank Megow; fourth sergeant, Doctor Wilson; first corporal, Charles Sher-

COMPANY H, CAMP SUTEMAN, WATERLOO, AUGUST, 1891





wood; second corporal, Charles McEwen; third corporal, Sidney S. Toman; fourth corporal, J. L. Cilley. The officers elected of the civil department of the organization were: President, W. H. Baily; secretary, C. A. Clarke; treasurer, W. S. Boggs. After the election the muster roll was presented and received some twenty-six signers, which was increased to a full company later, and immediately the company began regular drill practice. Then Capt. W. H. Thrift. These followed by O. D. Burr, who died in office; P. A. Sutkamp was then elected, LeRoy Cummings followed Sutkamp and then P. A. Sutkamp was reelected to the office. In February, 1891, he resigned and E. C. Lillie was elected; W. F. Miller and E. S. Stroman were also captains of the company. Company H attended all the state encampment and were a very active organization in the early days of its career.

This company was one of the crack companies of the state, winning many laurels in drill and rifle practice. In the fall of 1891, after fourteen years of existence, they disbanded. Captain Thrift after leaving Independence was elected as adjutant-general.

Company E, First Regiment I. N. G., was mustered into the State Militia, Thursday, June 4, 1896, by Adjutant-General Wright of Des Moines, Colonel Mahin of Clinton, and Captain Thrift of Dubuque. The following officers were elected: H. A. Allen, captain; C. A. Rosemond, first lieutenant; C. A. Rosemond, George Blamer, second lieutenant. The selection of non-commissioned officers was deferred to a later date.

Arms, uniforms and other equipment was sent from Des Moines and the company started drilling. Colonel Mahin announced that he had secured the use of the grounds at Rush Park for the annual encampment to be held in August, that he considered them the best for the purpose he had seen in the state. At the rifle shoot, the next week after the company was organized, it ranked fifth and seven companies below them.

Later in July the non-commissioned officers were chosen for efficiency in drill. First sergeant, Frank Litts; second sergeant, Will Berger; third sergeant, A. B. Cates; fourth sergeant, Alex. Donnan; fifth sergeant, Charles McClure; first corporal, Ray Snow; second corporal, Will Poor; third corporal, E. H. Tyson; fourth corporal, Herbert Higbee. Encampment at Camp Jordan, Rush Park.

Together with the Y. M. C. A. they leased King's Hall for an armory and association purposes—drills were held in order to get company into shape for encampment in August. Range was parallel with the west side of kite track.

Baths were put in, parlors fitted up in the front rooms and the auditorium utilized for gymnasium and drilling purposes.

Corporal A. L. McFarland, of Company H, Twenty-second Regulars, U. S. A., was detailed in Independence to drill Company E. He stayed here a month and evidence of his excellent work was manifested at the state encampment which took place in August at which Company E made a splendid showing, and as a slight evidence of the appreciation of his efforts and the high regard in which Company E held him, Captain Allen, on behalf of the company, presented him a purse.

The fine showing which the company made at the encampment in August was ample reward for the conscientious and untiring efforts made by Corporal

McFarland and Captain Allen in their behalf and the company's quick response and interest in the work but demonstrated the splendid material of which this company was composed and that their future excellent record in the Spanish-American war service was but a reflection of what had been their start, was fully demonstrated. Company E attended the state encampments, held numerous fairs, carnivals, field meets, gave various entertainments, exhibition drills and participated in all public affairs.

The company always ranked high and once the highest in the regiment as we mention specially and boasted some particularly fine shots.

#### COMPANY L

The Iowa National inspection in the spring of 1902 placed Company E of Independence in the foot ranks where it was sure to be mustered out unless something in the way of reorganization was done immediately. This was the company that had seen service in the Spanish-American war and which had gained an enviable reputation both in the regiment, and having had as they thought plenty of experience in army life and drill, many had withdrawn.

The membership had been made up to some extent of boys who lived in the country and on account of this the weekly drills were not attended as they should be. The inspector general further instructed the company that they must provide a more adequate armory. This the company had made several unsuccessful attempts to do but since it had come to the point of getting an armory, and being mustered out, they rented the Leach factory building and arranged a fine club room in connection. Recruiting for the organized company commenced immediately and their efforts were successful.

Company L, of the Forty-ninth Regiment, I. N. G., was mustered into the service by Major Allen, in August, 1902, with the following officers: Captain, R. A. Campbell; first lieutenant, W. A. Fiester; second lieutenant, Edward M. Sheehan. R. M. Campbell resigned in 1905, and Roy A. Cook was elected to the office, and served for five years when he resigned and First Lieut. Floyd Jones was elected captain. He served but a few months when he resigned and Mr. Cook was again installed as its captain.

The company attended all the state encampments and were one of the prize companies in drill and at the state shoots in the regiment but later interest began to wane and the armory used by the company not proving satisfactory to the army officials and another not being obtainable, the company was disbanded in the spring of 1912.

Company L, during the first few years of its existence, was one of the most popular organizations in the city. They were extremely active in the social way and participated in all public celebrations. Their Monday night dances at the armory were social events of the town and their public receptions and exhibitions were attended by enthusiastic, admiring crowds.

All this by way of peaceful pursuits. The only real touch of soldier life that this company ever experienced was on June 17, 1903, when Capt. R. A. Campbell received orders from Adjutant-General Byers to assemble Company L at once to be ready to report at Dubuque at any time. It had been known that



a strike on a street car line had been going on for several weeks and on Tuesday evening a mob of union men visited the office of the Union Electric Company and did considerable damage. Company L of that city had been immediately called out and orders were sent to other companies besides Company L. On Thursday Captain Campbell received orders to dismiss Company L as there had been no further trouble reported from Dubuque but on Saturday orders came to assemble the company, take the first train to Dubuque. Major Allen accompanied the boys on the afternoon train as he had been placed in charge of the four companies ordered to keep peace in the Key City. On the following Tuesday evening, the street car strike came to an end and Company L returned to their homes in this city on Wednesday afternoon, after a four days' service on guard duty in Dubuque. They experienced no difficulty from the strikers.

Company L was quartered in the ball room of the Julian Hotel and their principal duty while there was to protect the Iowa Street power house and the water works at Eagle Point. Company L performed the duties assigned in a soldierly and expeditious manner.

The cannon in their possession which used to guard the entrance to the Armory Building was presented by Company L to A. G. Beatty, commander of E. C. Little Post, G. A. R., and was placed on the plot of ground in Oakwood Cemetery where is to be erected a splendid soldiers' monument when Independence awakes from its lethargy in this respect.

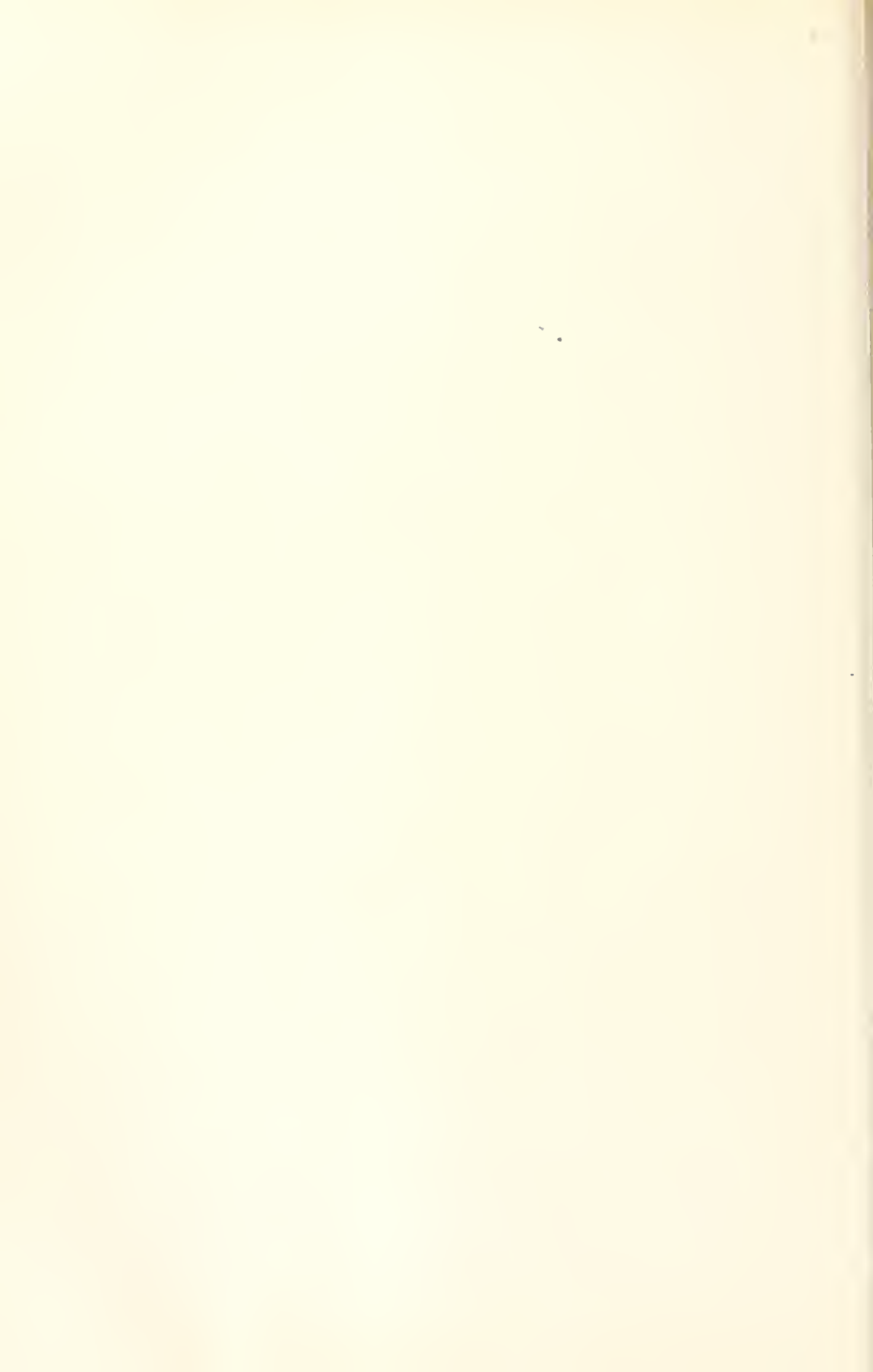
It seems a pity and almost a disgrace that this city has not as yet fittingly paid tribute in some worthy and substantial manner to the honor and valor of our departed heroes of the Civil and the Spanish-American wars. The patriotic societies have agitated the question and appropriated money for this purpose but lack of public interest and positive antagonism have thwarted their plans.

But their money placed on deposit is accruing interest and when the propitious time arrives will form a nucleus for a magnificent granite shaft to be raised. More the shame, because nearly every town in the county and in the entire country have honored their soldiers with some sort of a monument, a mute but inspiring testimony of their regard and devotion.

#### CAMP WOLCOTT

The Fifty-third Regiment I. N. G. and Company E and H troops of the Second United States Cavalry of Fort Des Moines, together with machine gun, hospital corps, and the regimental band of Cedar Rapids, encamped on the Rev. T. E. Taylor farm, West of Independence, from July 20 to 30, 1909. The encampment was under the command of Col. H. A. Allen and Company L of Independence under the command of Capt. Roy A. Cook. Nearly a thousand men were in attendance. It was named Camp Wolcott in honor of Morse Wolcott, the first member of Company E to have had sacrificed his life in the Spanish-American war. The camp consisted of about seven hundred national guardsmen and 150 of the regulars.

Governor's day, the Sham battle, field meet and dress parades attracted immense crowds of people to Camp Wolcott. The maneuvers of the Sham battle took place at the South Bridge, and was viewed by thousands of spectators.





*[Faint handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Some legible words include:]*

*the name of Gov. G. Key*  
*no. 589*  
*John D. ...*  
*Edward ...*  
*Leander Key*

ORIGINAL PETITION TO LEGISLATURE OF STATE TO APPOINT  
A COMMISSION TO LOCATE A SEAT OF JUSTICE  
IN BUCHANAN COUNTY

## CHAPTER XII

### EARLY HISTORY OF INDEPENDENCE

#### LOCATION—INCORPORATION—GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

##### THE LOCATION AND THE ADDITIONS

On December 20, 1845, the citizens of the settlement where Independence now stands petitioned the Legislature to appoint a commission to locate and establish a seat of justice—a facsimile of the same appears on the opposite page.

The Legislature on January 19, 1846, appointed John G. McDonald of Jackson County, Theophilus Crawford of Dubuque County, and John W. Clarke of Delaware County, but for some reason they failed to act and on February 24, 1847, Lyman Dillon of Dubuque, Thomas Denson of Jones and Sylvester Stevens of Jackson were appointed and on June 15, 1847, they met at the house of Joseph A. Reynolds and located the seat of justice on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 34 and the west half of the southwest quarter of section 35, township 89, range 9, and called it Independence.

A facsimile of the original plat appears with this article and it will be noticed the name is spelled Independence.

In June, 1847, the three commissioners, appointed by the State Legislature, visited the county and, on the fifteenth day of June, located the county seat on sections 34, 89 and 9, and called it Independence. The location being made at a date so near to the Fourth of July had probably a great influence in selecting the name of Independence for the future city. On the twenty-seventh day of November, the county platted the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of sections 34, 89 and 9.

Stoughton & McClure's addition was platted and placed on file February 27, 1854. The land on the west side of the river, which was originally platted by Stoughton & McClure, was called by them New Haven, which was, by the State Legislature, on the twenty-seventh day of January, 1857, changed to Stoughton & McClure's second addition to Independence. Scareliiff's addition, July 8, 1853; Melone's addition, May 3, 1854; A. & A. B. Clark & Company's addition, June 20, 1854; Fargo's addition, May 7, 1859; Bull's addition, September 15, 1857; Bartlet's second addition, March 5, 1858; Union addition, March 17, 1879; Close's addition, February 21, 1856; Harter's addition, December 23, 1858; Fargo's second addition, June 23, 1868 (this is a replat of Bartlet's second addition); Cumming's addition, January 12, 1857; Railroad addition, March 24, 1858; Railroad addition replatted, September 9, 1872; Mathias' sub-

division of block sixty, Union addition, August 30, 1860; Card's addition, November 20, 1873; Bartlet's addition, December 7, 1857; Searecliff's second addition, June 15, 1870; Woodward's addition, April 12, 1869; Herriek's addition, September 7, 1872 (this is a replat of Bartlet's second addition).

#### THE FIRST COURTHOUSE

The first building used for a county courthouse was a small wooden structure standing at the corner of Main and Chatham streets. This was in 1847. The small dingy front room was used as the county clerk's office and court room while the back end was occupied by Doctor Brewer, the first county clerk, and his large family.

The first court was held in the log cabin of Rufus B. Clark, which stood just north of where the Gedney now stands, in the middle of the street which was formerly called Mort street.

The second term of court was held in the storeroom of William Brazleton, then in the building which he erected for a schoolhouse, just south of the Commercial Bank, and in various other places until the completion of the present courthouse in 1857.

#### INCORPORATION

The first suggestion of incorporation of the village of Independence was made by two early lumber merchants in or about the year 1852. These men came from Dubuque to sell lumber and while in the city did a great deal to encourage the building of a mill on the Wapsipinicon. The incorporation when again revived in 1861 was opposed by a large minority. Those of the majority deemed it best to wait until nearly everyone was in favor of incorporation. Both divisions realized that this step to the rank of city meant a slight increase in taxes, but the majority deemed it advisable from the point of view that new opportunities would present themselves after incorporation. Nevertheless it was postponed until the year 1864. This time brought results. There was, practically speaking, no one opposed to it.

There was a great deal of trouble in determining the amount of land to be included in the city limits. There was some talk of having Independence extend over an area of three square miles. This aroused considerable discussion and was eventually defeated. There were also many suggestions and comments in favor of and opposing to a city hall which should be erected and opened on the day of the first election. This plan was likewise defeated.

The petitioners for the incorporation were C. F. Leavitt, J. S. Woodward, and James Jamison and it was to these worthy gentlemen that final decision for the establishment of city limits was secured, as may be seen by a copy of the petition for incorporation which photograph appears in this volume.

After the question of city limits was settled, much of the land had to be redivided. Some very laughable circumstances were connected with this. One property owner had his barn and chicken coop in Independence and the rest of his property outside. Another owner was fortunate enough to have

his front stoop, sitting room, and two bedrooms included within the city limits and the kitchen, dining room and another bedroom were outside the city limits. Thus he was relieved of paying city taxes by moving the front of his house to the rear of the kitchen and selling the land inside the city limits line.

The boundaries of the city have been changed from time to time and each time becoming more and more irregular, thereby differing from the original intention of having the city a perfect square.

The petition for incorporation was signed by 170 voters of the prominent men of the town.

Independence was incorporated as a second class city, on August 6, 1864, by Wm. H. Barton, county judge of Buchanan County, upon a petition signed by 178 of the residents of the territory composing the city.

An election was called for the nineteenth day of December, 1864, for the purpose of electing a mayor, city marshal, city treasurer, city solicitor and eight trustees.

At the election, 140 ballots were cast for mayor, of which D. S. Lee received 139 and P. C. Wilcox, 1; for city solicitor, C. T. Leavitt received 127 votes, D. D. Holdridge, 1 vote and J. S. Woodward, 1 vote; E. Brewer was unanimously elected treasurer; H. S. Cole was unanimously elected city marshal, and for trustees, J. F. Lyon received 137 votes, Sam Sherwood 130 votes, S. S. Clark 133 votes, Albert Clarke 137 votes, R. Campbell 138 votes, O. H. P. Roszell 121 votes, R. R. Plane 137 votes, J. B. Thomas 123 votes, P. C. Wilcox 2 votes, William Scott 1 vote, James Jamison 1 vote, H. A. King 1 vote.

The first meeting of the city council was held on December 28, 1864.

The territory comprising the city was the west one-half of section 35, the south half of section 34, the northeast quarter of section 34, all in township 89, range 9; also the northeast quarter of section 4 the east half of the northwest quarter of section 4, the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 4, the north half of the southwest quarter of section 3, and the north half of the southwest quarter of section 3, all in township 88, range 9.

The city was divided into four wards, the First, Second and Third wards having the same dividing lines as at present, and all of the city west of Walnut Street (Third Avenue, northeast), and north of Main and Independence streets (First Street, east and west), constituted the Fourth Ward.

At the first meeting of the council, fourteen motions were made, thirteen of which Councilman Roszell was the author, and the fourteenth, a motion to adjourn, was made by Councilman Thomas.

At that same meeting Councilman Roszell was elected city engineer, and James M. Weart was elected city clerk.

At an adjourned meeting, an ordinance was adopted, providing for wood markets, and creating the office of measurer of wood, to which office D. S. Deering was elected, but he declined to act, and on February 13, 1865, Ira Alexander was elected to the position.

On April 11, 1865, Perry Munson was elected the first street commissioner of Independence.

On April 14, 1865, Dr. H. Bryant was elected the first health officer of the city, and on April 17th, he declined to act, and Dr. J. G. House was elected to

the position. On that date the city council passed a resolution requesting the mayor to call a public meeting of the citizens, to take such action as might be deemed proper to carry out the proclamation of the governor requesting all citizens to meet on Thursday, the 27th of April, 1865, to appropriately testify to their sorrow on the death of President Lincoln.

#### THE BEGINNINGS AT INDEPENDENCE

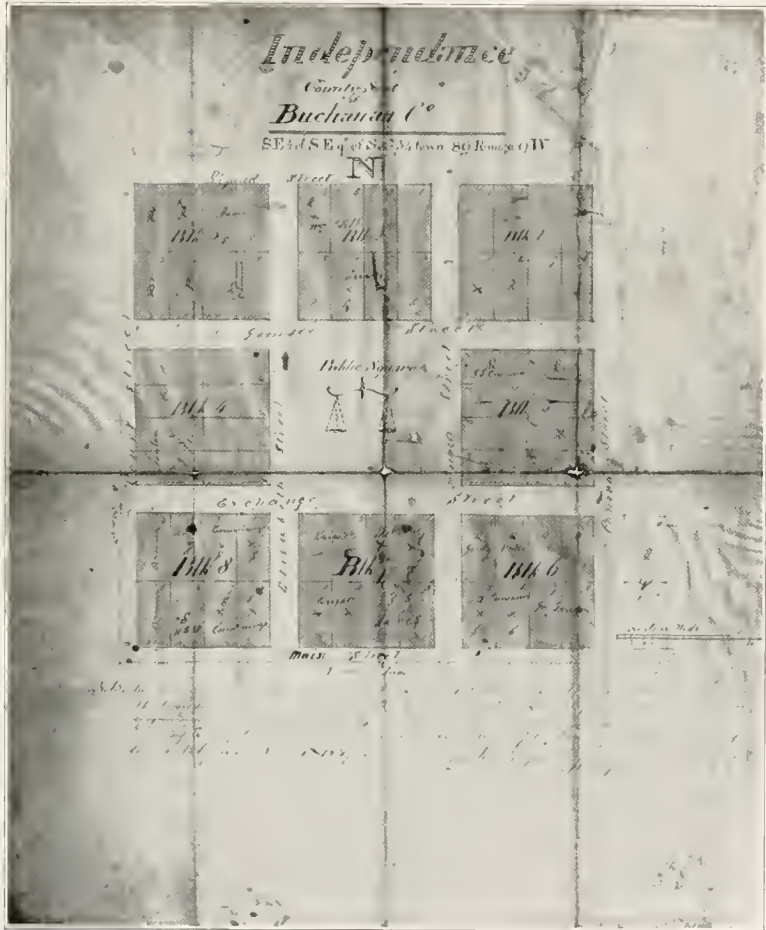
In the year 1846, the site of the present county seat of Buchanan County was occupied by the cabin of Rufus B. Clark, the well-known pioneer and hunter, who found amid the solitudes of this portion of the Valley of the Wapsipinicon, and in the deep pools of the river, abundant employment for his rifle and traps. He tilled ground enough to furnish his family with corn bread, relying upon the chase and trapping, for the chief means of subsistence, and wholly for their clothing. His annual or semi-annual visits to Dubuque or the lake cities, enabled him to dispose of his furs and pelts, and furnished him with the means of an honest, if not a luxurious, living.

Though he had chosen the banks of the Wapsipinicon as his dwelling place, or rather as the home of his family, probably from its proximity to eastern markets (for these considerations had their weight even with the western trappers), his hunting and fishing grounds were not confined to the Valley of the Wapsie, where his traps could be watched by the young hunters growing up under his training and dependent upon him for instructions in the profession to which they were born. Despite the Indians, then freely roaming over northern Iowa, he traversed the valleys of the Cedar, the Iowa and the Des Moines, as well as that of the stream on which his cabin was located.

But this hardy pioneer, though fearing no evil from his red neighbors, or the wild beasts he daily encountered, found himself in peril from the greed of a certain class of men, appropriately called "land sharks," who always appear on the confines of civilization, as soon as it becomes evident that the wave of immigration is setting in, ready to practice upon the simplicity of the hardy pioneer, and rob him of the fruits of his well-earned "pre-emption." To save his claim and home from the wiles of these operators, Clark sought the assistance of his firm friend and adviser, N. A. McClure, Esq., then a merchant of Milwaukee, and afterwards of Dubuque. With his assistance, he succeeded in entering four forty-acre lots, or a quarter section.

Some assert that Rufus B. Clark, so far from being a mere hunter and trapper, was the one who conceived the plan of locating a town at the point now occupied by the county seat of Buchanan County. In his long excursions through the northwest portion of Iowa, though many eligible sites for future cities were met with, none struck him so favorably as the waterpower and surrounding high grounds, covered with groves of oak, on the banks of the Wapsipinicon. In 1856, he was living at Quasqueton, but finding a few months later, that speculators were already attracted to this fair domain over which he had wandered, enjoying in anticipation the choice of locations in the entries of Government lands, he came from Quasqueton on the eighteenth of March, of that year, on the ice and commenced his house, which he had ready for occupancy early in April. Not having the means for further improvements, or for entering the





FIRST PLAT OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE



land at Government price, he succeeded in interesting N. A. McClure (as already stated), in his enterprise, who recommended N. P. Stoughton as another associate, and the latter named gentleman returned to Iowa with Clark. Being well pleased with the situation of the proposed purchase, he stopped in Dubuque on his return, and made the entry of the quarter section, which included the waterpower, and extended some eighty rods east and west from the river, and the same distance north and south of Main Street. Clark's house, which was a double log structure, with a hall between the two rooms (a favorite style in Tennessee, Kentucky, and southern Ohio, in the early part of the nineteenth century), stood in the middle of what is now Mott Street, at the intersection of Chatham Street. It was for some time the principal house in the settlement, and, of course, the headquarters and rendezvous of all new arrivals.

Mr. Stoughton, who had returned to Wisconsin, after entering the land as above related, was again on the ground after a lapse of a few weeks, bringing with him Samuel Sherwood and T. Dolton, who were prepared to proceed at once with the building of the dam and the mill. Doctor Lovejoy, the first physician of the place, was also one of the Stoughton party. Soon after the little community was again nearly doubled, by the addition of A. H. Trask, Eli Phelps and Mr. Babbitt, who all boarded with Clark. In the following June, Thomas W. Close came, who continued a resident until his death, in 1874. S. S. McClure, and some others, came during the summer, but returned before winter.

The second building erected was a store, which stood somewhere on the north side of Main Street, and east of Chatham. It was occupied by S. P. Stoughton, with a small stock, comprising the plainest, most common and necessary goods, but sufficient for the wants of the population at that time, and doubtless a great convenience, as there was no other market nearer than Dubuque. The dam and sawmill were completed, probably during the autumn of the first year; and the first slabs were used in putting up the third building, but the second dwelling house, in Independence. This was built by Elijah Beardsley. The fourth house was built by Dr. Edward Brewer, and stood for many years, that is, considering the character of the building, which seems to have been remarkable principally for the multiplicity of purposes which it served at one and the same time—a private dwelling, a postoffice, a boardinghouse, and all the offices known to law and to courts, besides a real-estate and broker's office, and take it for granted, that in the number of its rooms it did not exceed the manor house (as it will be quite proper to style the residence of the founder of the city).

It is believed that the persons already mentioned, with two or three young men, comprised all the permanent inhabitants previous to 1848. In the spring of that year, there were some additions, and the number of families increased to eight, viz.: Dr. Edward Brewer, Rufus B. Clark, Asa Blood, Elijah Beardsley, Thomas W. Close, Almon Higley, William Hammond, and Doctor Lovejoy.

Although there were many newcomers, and the place became of some importance as a trading point, little advance was made in the permanent population for several years. In consequence of the building of the dam, ague and other malarial fevers prevailed to such an extent that few had the courage to remain after the first season.

In all new countries there is more or less sickness, and in this wild, unbroken prairie land, so rank with thick, grassy vegetation, ague and other malarial fevers flourished. In consequence of the building of the dam at Independence, which to an extent aggravated those diseases, few had the courage to remain after the first season.

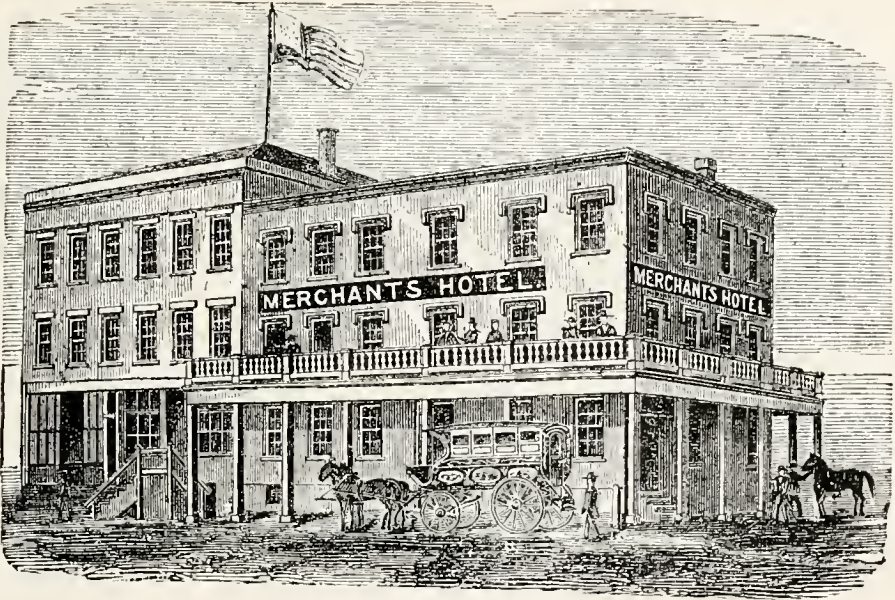
Before the fall of 1849, all the families had left, except those of Brewer, Close and Beardsley, and one family had been added—that of Mr. Horton. In the spring of the following year, Beardsley and Horton left, reducing the population of the embryo capital to two families, those of Doctor Brewer and Mr. Close. In 1848 a small log building was erected a little east of the present location of the Peoples National Bank, in which Doctor Brewer taught the first school established in the county. At its opening there were twenty pupils in attendance, and the doctor was said to be no less successful in his attention to the mental needs of those committed to his care, than afterwards, in the eradication of their physical ailments. Before the close of the first year, the school closed, and the temple of science became a blacksmith shop.

Such a deterioration of status in the community, to which this historical edifice was subjected, can only be accounted for in some extreme necessity, and the numerous farms being located around both settlements seems to have been the incentive: the prospective demand for equine footgear caused the enterprising Charles Robbins, the original village blacksmith, to establish therein his smithy emporium. But the question arises, could not a combination of these arts and sciences have been effected, whereby school sessions and blacksmithing would not interfere with each other, and the recesses and noons could be devoted to the more lucrative, and, as it would appear, more necessary profession; since Doctor Brewer had reconciled a boardinghouse and private dwelling in a building with but one room.

Besides the prevalent diseases, the fact that a prosperous community had been growing up at Quasqueton, during the three or four years of the beginning of Independence, is largely responsible for the retarded growth of the latter place, and possibly the depletion of the little hamlet under the oaks, although we cannot find record of there being any great influx of immigrants from the upper rapids city to the lower, in those days.

William Brazelton put up a small building during the summer of 1850, which was used for a school, taught by O. H. P. Roszell, afterward county judge.

The postoffice was established the second year of the settlement, in 1848, S. P. Stoughton being the first postmaster. Doctor Brewer succeeded him after a short time, and held the office for six years. The enrollments of the office were very inconsiderable, for the first two or three years not exceeding one dollar and twenty-five cents a quarter, and the amount of business accorded, as a matter of course, with the revenue; the mail being often carried in the vest pocket of the postmaster. In the autumn of 1847, the contract for carrying the mail between Dubuque and Independence was sub-let to Trask and Phelps, who for some time carried the mail matter on horseback, making weekly trips. Finding an increased demand for the services of a purchasing and carrying agent, they put on a democrat wagon, and speedily grew into favor and a remunerative business, by attending to small commissions from all points along the route. They were even flattered by the deferential attentions of the Dubuque merchants, who did not



EARLY INDEPENDENCE HOTEL



Photo by Gilbert

FIRST FACTORY IN INDEPENDENCE



disdain the increase of patronage which was connected with the trade of the Buchanan County mail carrier.

In 1853, Independence contained but twelve inhabited dwellings, one or two stores, a sawmill, blacksmith shop, etc. At that date, Waterloo was scarcely a hamlet, and all the valleys of the Iowa rivers in the Northwest, were an almost unbroken wilderness. And yet, in six years from that time, Independence had grown, from the straggling collection of a dozen and a half primitive buildings, to a thrifty, stirring town of 1,500 inhabitants, with mills and machine shops, churches, hotels, stores, a courthouse, and hundreds of beautiful private residences. Schools flourished and society was marked by that refinement which generally betokens the presence of wealth and the fixed habits of settled and homogeneous communities.

The growth of the town, since this second stage was reached, has been steady, but like that of most Iowa towns, at a greatly reduced rate of increase. The railroad opened in 1859, though of the greatest importance to the prosperity of the county at large, and indispensable to the continued growth of the town, yet, as in its further completion and multiplying communications and connections in opening to the on-pressing tide of emigration, the great beyond, which to the average American mind has always been invested with irresistible charms, its rapid advance into new territory may be said to have checked eventually the wonderful growth which marked the first years of the assured prosperity of the new town.

#### INDEPENDENCE IN THE FIFTIES

Independence, for the first few years, confined its growth exclusively to the east side of the river, but in 1856 and 1857, the west side began to boom, and some eight buildings were erected on that side—New Haven, as it was then called. Messrs. Harter & Dickey had just established a plant for manufacturing steam pressed brick and a turning lathe. The east side plant, owned by Clark & Stevens, had a capacity of 1,000 finished bricks of good quality per hour. The proprietors had a contract for 3,000,000 bricks for Independence alone, and this, with the output of the other plants, would probably aggregate 4,000,000 bricks used in Independence that year (1857). The brick industry in Independence in those days was a very promising one, with the constant building and prospective improvements.

Messrs. McClure and Counts had a large hotel, which they were remodelling in 1857.

Mr. Sauerbier had just completed a large stone store, which was one of the finest buildings in the town. It was to be occupied by T. B. Bullen as a general dry goods and grocery store.

The second story was to be used as a public hall. This old stone store still stands on the north side of Main Street—the third house west of the mill. Years ago, it was remodelled into a dwelling house, by Mr. Sauerbier, and occupied by his family, and for many years has been the home of C. F. Herrick and family. Mrs. Herrick is the daughter of Mr. Sauerbier.

On the east side of the river, in 1857, a large building was being erected on the south side of Main Street, near the bridge, conjointly by Messrs. S. S. Allen, Thomas Close and H. Ambrecht.

In the July 22d, 1857, *Civilian*, appeared this notice: A new and appropriate carriage has just been purchased by Messrs. Trask and Westfall, for the use of the public in the conveyance of the dead to the burial ground. The want of such a carriage has long been felt by our citizens, and it is hoped that the town will purchase it, as it should not be owned by private individuals. Other items appear, which show the wonderful optimism and faith which the early settlers had in the future prosperity of their county and town.

In May, 1858, a man by the name of McKellar made Independence a visit, with a view to establishing a starch factory here. He was a starchmaker by trade, and said he had seen no place which he considered so good as this for the business. "Such a factory would be of great benefit, both to our town, and to the country around. It would give the farmer a market for his grain, and at a good price too, which he cannot now sell at all."

In the fall of that year another project to start a paper mill was in progress. A man came here for the purpose of purchasing a waterpower. "We hope he may succeed in the negotiation, as there is nothing more needed in this part of Iowa than paper manufactories." A tannery had been erected that summer by Loomis & Campbell. The leather was tanned by a new process, which is said to answer the place of hemlock and oak bark.

#### INDEPENDENCE IN THE EARLY SIXTIES

The streets in Independence in the early days were always in a dreadful condition. They were uneven and muddy, the sidewalks were a menace to life and limb. The first sidewalks in town were of oak, or elm boards, often twisted and full of splinters—when pine planks were introduced it was considered a great improvement. Not until 1864 was a grade established on Main Street; before that time the merchants had built according to their fancies and the inclines and declivities of the street. At the east end of the bridge, the street was some five or six feet lower than it is now and every time the river was very high that portion of the bridge and street were inundated. This was greatly improved after the grade was established—Main Street was ploughed up and leveled—excavating was done from Walnut Street east, and filling in from Walnut Street west to the bridge and the bridge was raised up five feet at the east end.

Away back in 1861 there was a movement on foot to macadamize one of the streets leading to the S. C. D. R. R. Depot; it was estimated that it would only cost \$75 or \$100 and it was proposed to procure this by subscription. But not until May, 1866, was Chatham Street opened clear through to the depot. Up to that time, the lots adjoining Main Street were private property and were covered with brush and undergrowth. For six years Mayor W. A. Jones had been trying to boost the project, and three years previous had bought one of those lots with that object in view and finally, after expending a great deal of energy and zeal, he accomplished his purpose.

In 1864, Independence was a booming, thrifty village. Many families had been compelled to leave town because it was impossible to rent any kind of a place to live in. Houses were so scarce that families were living in any available quarters. The papers were agitating the building of more houses.



Aside from Cedar Falls, which, being at the terminus of the railroad, had a much larger territory to draw from, Independence shipped more grain, live stock, wool and sundries in the year 1864, than any other town on the railroad between Dubuque and Cedar Falls, the total amount being 1,463,471 pounds. We exceeded Manchester, the next highest, by 442 pounds. The Independence people in those days indulged in numerous excursions to the towns close by and to the soldiers' camps at Dubuque. In 1864, 2,972 railroad tickets were sold to other stations than Dubuque, which was seventy-nine more than Waterloo sold that year, but they beat us on tickets sold to Dubuque, Independence having sold 1,896 and Waterloo, 2,126.

On a cold winter's day in January, 1866, the editor of the Guardian counted 46 carriages and 327 persons from the Montour House (corner of Main and Walnut streets) to the bridge and this on a Saturday afternoon when the majority of the population was watching a horse race which was taking place at the river. There was a great rivalry between the towns of Cedar Falls, Waterloo and Independence about their respective populations, and although both Cedar Falls and Waterloo boasted a larger population, the vote always indicated otherwise. In the fall elections of 1864 the vote in Independence was 468 votes, exceeding that of Cedar Falls by 35 votes and Waterloo by 26. The Waterloo Courier took exception to the Buchanan County papers' comparison of votes and drew attention to the fact that at our municipal election in December, 1864, only 139 votes were cast, which, at the rate of 1 to 6 would indicate a population of 800. But in explanation there was but one ticket in the field and a very light vote was cast, the mayor receiving but 139 votes.

Undoubtedly at this time Independence was a better town than Waterloo. Several women doctors were practitioners here in the early days. An innovation in the way of a regular sprinkling apparatus, in other words a wagon, was introduced into Independence in June, 1864, both to lay and allay the dust.

A vinegar manufactory was located in Independence in 1865. Mr. Christian Heege had just built a fine new brick ice house the same year. Many of the residents used to put up their own ice in those days.

The first bakery was started in Independence in February, 1866, by Boardman & Unger.

The first tobacco store was established the same year by Mr. A. Kraft.

A Miss Pomeroy and sister had a photograph gallery in Independence for several years from 1865 on.

The First National Bank was started in March, 1865.

In 1864, ninety marriage licenses were issued by Judge Barton (the only legal source from which licenses were obtainable); in 1863 there were but sixty-four, showing an increase of twenty-six. In spite of the war and the absence of many young eligibles, Cupid was still energetically using his bow. Mayhap the war had a tendency to increase, or at least precipitate marriages. The young ladies easily succumbing to the attractions of brass buttons and becoming tired of waiting till the war was over, seized the first furlough for a honeymoon. The population of the county was 8,000 and the marriages averaged one couple out of every eighty-nine persons.

From March, 1865, to March, 1866, over half a million dollars of real property changed hands in Buchanan County, nearly fifty thousand acres sold and about five hundred town lots. A total of 1,000 sales in one year in the county.

Fairbank Township led in farm sales and Independence in town sales, which sales amounted to \$83,000.

In 1869 over one hundred buildings were erected at a cost of \$144,690, the Mill Company expending \$30,000 of this sum in improvements.

## CHAPTER XIII

### HISTORY OF TOWNSHIPS

#### BUFFALO TOWNSHIP

In the year 1852 a township was formed composed of the whole of the present Buffalo, Madison, the north half of Bryon and Fremont. Subsequently each was set aside as a separate division of the county. The order establishing Buffalo Township was issued by O. H. P. Roszell, county judge, on August 6, 1852.

The first election was held in the spring of 1857 at the house of Abiathar Richardson and the following were elected township officers. A. Richardson, A. J. Eddy and Mr. Gould, trustees; Silas K. Messenger, justice; Samuel M. Eddy and R. W. Baneroft, constables; A. Richardson, clerk.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENTS

Abiathar Richardson was the first settler in the township, coming in the fall of 1849. He built for himself a log house on the west side of Buffalo Grove. He lived here alone for a year, then persuaded Silas K. Messenger to buy his cabin. Richardson soon after married and built the first frame house in the township. He died in 1872.

Andrew J. Eddy became a resident here in June, 1851, and immediately built his home near Richardson's. Eddy's home became popular with the travelers who passed this way and desired lodging for the night.

William Jewell settled here in 1850 and only a short time before Eddy. Rockwell Jewell became a settler in the township about 1852, but he only remained here four years.

Samuel M. Eddy came to Buffalo Township in 1851 with his brother, A. J., and lived with him until 1857, when he entered some land, built a cabin, and took care of his mother.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

There was at one time a village in the southeast part of the township by the name of Buchanan, but popularly known as Mudville. It was platted and laid out by Abiathar Richardson in about 1857. There was a thriving business in this town before the construction of the railroad a few miles north. When this occurred, however, the town sunk to an ignominious death.

The first store to be kept in the township was by Joseph Abbott. The

first blacksmith was Caleb Fairchild. Cook Richardson constructed a saw mill in the south part of Mudville and ran the factory for several years. The first postmaster was the founder Abiathar Richardson.

The first white child born here was Emeline Jenks in September, 1852. Ezra Richardson was born in the fall of the next year.

The first death in the settlement was that of Rufus Connelly.

In the summer of 1853 a school was taught in the house of Silas K. Messenger by Emily Gaylord. This was a subscription school. The first house was built of logs and James Bennett was the first teacher to have a class therein.

A cemetery was established here in 1868 in the eastern part of the township.

The first marriage in the township was that of Abiathar Richardson and Almira Noyes in 1852.

The first frame house in the township was built in 1851 by this same Richardson and was located in the Village of Mudville. The first frame barn was constructed in 1855 by A. J. Eddy. Eddy also drew the first load of pork from the township, hauling them to Dubuque.

C. H. Jakway raised the first flock of sheep in 1857.

#### RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES

The first religious meetings held in the township were at the home of A. J. Eddy in 1852 by a traveling pastor named Zeigler.

The Methodist Episcopal Society was first organized in September, 1856, in a private residence. Schoolhouse and these homes were the places of meetings for a number of years after the organization. Among the early members of the society were: O. Preble and wife; L. H. Smith and wife; J. G. Ward and wife; and others. Services were afterward held in the Free Will Baptist Church. The church in Aurora was constructed in 1892 and the one in Stanley in 1894. The former church has a membership of about seventy-five and the latter sixty-five.

There is also a Union Church at Stanley.

The Free Will Baptist Church was organized in the township about 1857. The society was formed by P. M. Halleck and wife and H. M. Bailey and wife, they having withdrawn from the church at Madison. R. Norton was the first pastor and his congregation consisted of eight members. The Aurora Church is the descendant of this society, but has never had a regular pastor. They are either supplied from Lamont or Winthrop.

There was an United Brethren Church organized in the township about 1875, but this society has become extinct and the records lost.

#### CITY OF AURORA

The building of the Chicago Great Western Railroad through Buffalo Township was also responsible for the growth of the City of Aurora. The town was surveyed and platted in the year 1886, the same year the railroad came in, and the plat was filed for record on November 1st of that year. The



MAIN STREET OF AURORA



town rapidly grew when the opportunity came for shipping and receiving tradesgoods and the 400 people living there today are mostly well-to-do and thrifty.

There are two good banks in the town. The first, The Aurora Savings Bank, was established in the year 1892. The present officers are: R. Richardson, president; C. H. Jakeway, vice president; W. I. Warren, cashier; and Pearl Durfey, assistant cashier. The capital stock is \$10,000, the surplus is \$4,000, and the deposits are \$95,000. The Farmers and Merchants Bank was organized in 1898. George Spangler is the president at this time; C. Watson, vice president and W. G. Elliott, cashier. The capital stock is \$10,000 and the deposits amount to \$65,000. A fuller account of these two banks may be found in Volume II of this work.

The Aurora Observer is the only newspaper published in the town. It was established in 1894 as an independent paper by J. A. Kinney, who afterward turned it over to his brother, R. D. The latter sold to Mr. Knapp, who in turn disposed of the paper to Mr. Tennis. Tennis is now running the same in weekly issues. It is a very substantial paper, with excellent make-up, and good circulation.

Fraternal societies in Aurora are represented by the Masons, the Odd Fellows, and the Modern Woodmen. There are also several ladies' sewing clubs active.

In the spring of 1899 the following men, Lake Harmon, F. L. Chapman, M. J. Brown, J. A. Kinney, M. D. Mallison, and M. T. Miller, petitioned for an election for incorporation. This was granted and the town was incorporated May 25, 1899.

The modern schoolhouse in Aurora was built in 1909 and is one of the best in any of the smaller towns of the county.

#### TOWN OF STANLEY

The year 1886 ushered in the little City of Stanley, located in section 12 of Buffalo Township. It was platted and owned by S. C. Irvine. The Chicago Great Western, of course, started the town. The postoffice was established in that year.

The Stanley Exchange Bank was established in 1897, by Adam Kiefer, of Hazleton, with C. E. Hayes as cashier. R. R. Sherman is president of the bank at this time, and H. L. Irvine is cashier. The capital stock is \$15,000 and the deposits amount to \$125,000.

In 1905 there was a newspaper started in Stanley called the Stanley Gazette and was published by the Stanley Printing Company. The paper was of poor make-up and poor editorial quality so it lived but a year or so.

The Town of Stanley was officially platted on August 17, 1886. On March 5, 1914, an election was held for incorporation and the result was favorable. D. E. Mahoney was elected mayor; R. D. Platt, clerk; George Hill, treasurer; Frank Ingamell, H. W. Bird, R. R. Sherman, H. E. Garlock and R. S. Zabriskie, councilmen.

Stanley has a good school building, erected in 1902.

## BYRON TOWNSHIP

## ORGANIZATION

The Township of Byron was organized on March 20, 1856. The court order, reading as follows, gives an idea of the details of the organization: "Comes into court James Lines and forty-six others praying that the court set of township 89, range 8 north, excepting sections 13, 24 and 36; and the same is hereby formed into a separate preeinct to be called Byron, and the court orders that an election be holden in said township on the first Monday in April next, at the house of William Lines, on section 15 in said township, for the election of three trustees, two justices, two constables, and one road supervisor, and one school-house commissioner, for the county at large—O. H. P. Roszell, County Judge."

## THE ELECTION

This election was held on the above specified date as ordered by the court. T. Stoneman and C. W. McKinney were appointed judges of the election and William Lines, clerk. The following persons were elected at this time: E. B. King, John Tullock and William Potter, trustees; L. S. Brooks and Sylvester Pierce, justices of the peace; James Becker and Martin Hearne, constables; S. L. Gaylord, county supervisor; William Lines, clerk, and John C. Ozius, assessor. There were thirty-seven votes cast at this election.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT

The first permanent settler in Byron Township was Henry Baker. He came in the year 1844 and built the first cabin, in the southwest part of the township. He selected a site near to a natural spring and within easy distance of the timber. Baker lived on this spot for nearly two years, having as his nearest neighbor Hamilton McGonigle, who had settled south in Liberty Township, three or four miles distant. The only company Baker had during these two years of residence was his sister. However, near the time when he departed from the township he married Laura Hunter. His sister married Samuel Casky and lived for many years in Quasqueton. Nothing more was heard of Baker after he left the township, but it is presumed that he went to some of the western states.

Robert Sutton settled in the township about the year 1846 and immediately purchased the claim made by Baker. With the latter's departure, Sutton was left the one inhabitant of the township. He and his family hunted and drove to mill at Quasqueton without seeing more than a dozen people on the route. Sutton stayed here until the year 1865, when the march of civilization began to reach his quarters. He was a typical frontiersman, scorning the advantages of settled communities and desiring the free openness of the prairie, without hindrance, so he packed up his belongings, and took his family to Kansas, where he kept a tavern. Many stories are told of Sutton, stories which do not speak well of his character. In the first place, he is said to have been very cruel to his family. At one time he tied his son, Benjamin, to a tree, fixed an ear of corn in his mouth, and left him there for several hours, to endure the torture and the hot





VIEW OF STANLEY



sun as best he might. The names of his children were: Henry, James, Benjamin, Jessie, Clarissa, Daniel, Nancy and Perry. Sutton was a Pennsylvanian, but had stopped in Illinois prior to coming to Iowa.

Another early settler of Byron Township was an S. L. Gaylord, a native of New York State. Mr. Gaylord did not live long after his location in the township, passing away on October 20, 1856. His widow moved to Independence in 1865 and there lived until the time of her death in 1878.

Hamilton McGonigle was another settler of the early township. He first settled in the county in 1848, about one mile east of Independence. He squatted on this land, made improvements, but while he was doing this another party regularly entered the land from the Government and McGonigle was forced to move. They moved first to a place near Quasqueton, then the largest town in the county. In 1853 he came to Byron Township and here remained until his death on April 24, 1867.

Col. Isaac G. Freeman, a native of New Jersey, came to Iowa on April 14, 1853, and settled on Pine Creek. During his residence here he was an active worker for the good of the community and for a time filled the office of justice. Nathan King came to the county in the year 1852, and first settled in Washington Township, but in 1853 he became a settler of Byron and on the farm now owned by A. Francis. He died here in October, 1866. Amos Knig came to the county in 1849, settling first in Independence, but in the early part of 1851 he moved to Byron Township, building his cabin on the banks of Pine Creek. He remained here but two years, subsequently moving to Ohio and then to Chicago. Ezra King settled here about the same time in 1851 and stayed until 1877, then removed to Liberty Township and died there in 1880.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The first cemetery to be established in the township was in 1875 and was called the Whitney Cemetery.

Perhaps the first school to be taught in the township was in Col. I. G. Freeman's house in 1854 by Miss R. C. Freeman. During the next year another school was taught in a log house belonging to D. C. Gaylord by Lucinda Pierce. In this year of 1855 a schoolhouse was constructed in the Freeman district. The next one was in the Daws district. Among the early teachers were Mary Freeman, S. G. Pierce, Philip Bartle, Lucinda Pierce and R. C. Freeman.

The first death in the township was that of Frank Freeman, a son of Col. I. G. Freeman, on October 23, 1856.

The first wedding was that of Robert Copeland and Louisa McGonigle in 1856, the ceremony being performed by S. G. Pierce.

The first postmaster in the township was L. J. Dunlap in 1858.

The first white child born here was Thomas Sutton in 1852.

The first religious meetings were held in the southwest part of the township in the Bethel district.

The Illinois Central Railroad was constructed through the township in 1859. The usual experiences were endured by the people when this road was put through, experiences both pleasant and unpleasant.

## TOWN OF WINTHROP

The only town in Byron Township is Winthrop, located in the extreme southeast corner of the township. This town was first platted and laid out as a village in 1857 by A. P. Foster. The name of Winthrop was suggested by E. S. Norris, a friend of the man who platted the town, but the significance of the name is not known. The first purchase of land here was by Foster himself. He bought 240 acres, a part of which is now included in the town. The postoffice was established here in 1856.

The first two years of the existence of this town, were not productive of much growth. The town merely existed on paper. However, the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad through the site in 1859 started the growth of the town. A Mr. Dutton opened up the first store and the first hotel was kept by Henry Corrick.

## WINTHROP FIRE

On Tuesday morning, January 1, 1878, the Town of Winthrop was visited by fire which destroyed about eight thousand dollars worth of property. The fire was discovered in the rear of a building occupied by Mrs. Phoenicia as a dry goods store and dwelling. So fast was the progress of the fire that the occupants barely had time to escape. The fire spread to the east and to the west, and when it was finally stopped, the only buildings left standing in the block were those on the extreme corners. However, the town was quickly rebuilt.

From this time on Winthrop has been an important town in that section of the county. At the present time, there is a population of about six hundred and fifty people and the advent of new business and increasing importance as a trade center promise a substantial growth in the next few years. The people of the town held an election on April 19, 1886, and voted that the village be incorporated as a town. The first mayor chosen was N. Barney and the first trustees were J. Palmetier, S. Braden, A. Downing, A. Uhl, W. B. Halleck and F. C. Norman. The mayors who have served since N. Barney have been W. C. Boynton, C. D. Van Horn, A. C. Householder, J. Palmetier, A. Downing, O. J. Metcalf, N. Barney, F. C. Norman, George Spangler, M. L. Shine, A. W. Norman, E. G. Schacherer, and A. W. Norman. This list is in the order of service. The present officers of the city are A. W. Norman, mayor; L. N. Norman, clerk; H. M. Lutz, treasurer.

## BANKS

One of the best proofs of the prosperity of Winthrop is the excellent condition of the town banks there. The Peoples State Bank is an institution organized on August 1, 1901, and opened for business five days later, with a capital stock of \$25,000. The first officers of this bank were: Thomas Thompson, president; James McKay, vice president; and L. N. Norman, cashier. These officers are still active. The deposits at the present time amount to \$150,000 and there is a surplus of \$15,000. The bank bought the present building at the time of opening, but plans are under way now for the construction of a new edifice in the next year.



MAIN STREET, LOOKING EAST, WINTHROP



The Winthrop State Bank was first organized as a private bank in 1884 by L. S. Clark, George Spangler, W. B. Halleck, J. Palmentier, Walter Thompson and Samuel Braden. The capital stock at this date was \$5,000. A small brick building was constructed at the same time, the building being 16 by 24 feet in size. J. Palmentier was chosen as the first president; George Spangler, vice president, and L. S. Clark, cashier. In the month of March, 1892, the private bank was reorganized as a state bank, with same officers, excepting the position of cashier, which was taken by E. Brintnall. The present officers are: W. B. Halleck, president; A. J. Dunlap, vice president; and E. Brentnall, cashier. The capital stock is \$25,000; deposits, \$175,000; and surplus, \$10,000. A new building was constructed in 1900 at a cost of \$2,000, being a one-story brick.

The present Winthrop News was first established as the Winthrop Review by Frank Vierth, now publisher of the Quasquetonian, about 1895. Succeeding Vierth came Dunlap, Bird, Seofield, Ainsworth, Heath and J. N. Gray, the latter at present in charge of the paper. Heath, in 1904, changed the name of the paper to the Winthrop News. The publication is issued weekly, has a good circulation, and is known as one of the most staple of the papers in the county outside of Independence.

#### SOCIETIES

Shiloh Lodge No. 247, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was organized in Winthrop on June 2, 1869, with sixteen charter members. In 1883 the lodge disbanded and until December, 1895, the town was without a Masonic lodge. On the above date Byron Lodge No. 546 was organized with twenty members. This lodge has prospered ever since and now has a strong membership of fifty-six. The lodge rents a hall, but has plans for the erection of a new building which will be one of the features of the town.

Winthrop Lodge No. 550, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized in the year 1901. The lodge now has a membership of 125 men. There is also a lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America, and the M. B. A. in Winthrop at the present time.

All of the lodges in the town have the women's auxiliary lodges in connection.

#### DORIS

In 1902 the Illinois Central Railroad decided to establish a station between Independence and Winthrop, in Byron Township. There is an elevator, a store, and a few homes here now. The name of the station was in honor of the daughter of Third Vice President M. Gillas, of Memphis, Tennessee.

#### CHURCHES OF WINTHROP

The Congregational Society was organized on May 22, 1865, with a membership of twenty-two. The place of organization was the old Brown schoolhouse, and services were held there for quite a long time. A regular house of worship was built in Winthrop in 1869, costing about three thousand dollars. Other authorities give the date of organization as March 11, 1865, and the first place

of meeting as the Brooks schoolhouse, five miles northwest of Winthrop. The charter members of the society were: G. S. Dawes, Adelia Dawes, Prosper Brintnall, Amy Brintnall, E. P. Brintnall, Wealthy Brintnall, Sarah Hamilton, Ann L. Meffert, Polly Pierce, James L. Cross, Mary A. Cross, I. H. Morgan, Clarissa Morgan, Robert Morris, Rebecca Morris, A. E. Stewart, Elizina Stewart, Pridgeon Hardy, Eliza Hardy, Frank Dawes and Cynthia Dawes. The first clerk was J. H. Morgan, the first deacon was G. S. Dawes and the first treasurer was E. P. Brintnall. The first supply was A. Manson and the first pastor was Rev. William Spell. In 1913 and 1914 the old church was very extensively remodeled. This work was under the charge of the present pastor, Clyde S. Holland, and he was assisted materially by the members of the congregation. On November 2, 1913, the last service of tribute was held in the old church building and then it was vacated to make way for the new structure. There are at present 180 members of this society in Winthrop and the church is very active in the religious work of the township and county. Castleville Church, in the same township, is also supplied by Reverend Holland. They have fourteen members and a small frame church building.

A Catholic church was organized in Winthrop in 1876, with a first membership of eight families. Five hundred dollars was paid for a house in which to hold the meetings. Patrick Clabby was the first visiting priest. The frame church building now used by the society was erected in 1888, and several years ago there was a comfortable parsonage built. After Father Clabby came Father Mulligan, then Father Trum. The present pastor is Fr. John McCormick. Fifty families compose the membership of the church.

The Methodist Episcopal Society in Winthrop had its beginning in the old Silver Creek Church and is an outgrowth of this society primarily. The Silver Creek Church was established in 1852 as a part of the Manchester Circuit, composed of Masonville, Silver Creek, Sand Creek and Portable. The church was originated in John McKay's house, and in 1854, Reverend Brown, a missionary, preached to the people. About the fall of 1857 Silver Creek was made a preaching point on the Quasqueton Circuit and Reverend Hood supplied. Then came Reverends Bailey, Shapper, Fosset, Raines, Smith, Stoneman and Van Wick. Silver Creek was made a part of the Winthrop Church in 1866 and continued for several years and then disbanded altogether. In 1886 the church at Winthrop was again started and continues at the present time. The present membership is about one hundred and Rev. C. G. Fort is the pastor.

The Presbyterian Church was first organized in Quasqueton on March 26, 1853, by Rev. J. H. Whitman. There were seven members of the original society. It was first organized as a free Presbyterian church and was withdrawn from the general church on a dispute over the question of slavery. On April 26, 1867, it was taken back into the regular church and made a part of the Dubuque Presbytery with twenty members. On October 4, 1875, a union was effected between the Quasqueton Church and the Byron Center Church and from these two a third church was formed, and was known as the Pine Creek Church. A house of worship was immediately constructed by this new church, located on Pine Creek, two miles west of Winthrop. This church is still in existence and is one of the most prosperous of the country churches of the county. The membership at present is about one hundred people.



On April 7, 1853, a Church of God was organized in Liberty Township with five members. The meeting was held at the home of Hamilton McGonigle. For some time after this the services were held in private homes and in schoolhouses and the first preacher to attend to the society was Rev. D. Gill. In 1855 the society built a house of worship in the southwestern part of Byron Township, which they designated as the Bethel Church. The present church has a membership of 150 people and the church property is valued at about fifteen hundred dollars. There is no regular pastor at the present time, but the church is supplied from several sources.

The first Baptist meeting was held in the township by Rev. John Fullerton of Independence in the month of June, year 1860. He preached the first time from the steps of the old Illinois Central Depot and later preached in a private residence. In 1867 a society was formed for the purpose of organizing a society. In the next year this house was constructed and dedicated on December 28, 1868. The whole cost of the house at that time was about five thousand dollars. On January 26, 1869, the Quasqueton Baptists came and formed the Winthrop Baptist Church and Rev. John Fullerton was their first preacher. This church has been out of existence for about fifteen years, due to the decrease in members and lack of support.

### CONO TOWNSHIP

The name of Cono was that of a Winnebago Indian chief who, it is said, hunted along the Wapsipinicon River in the township in the very early days before the white men came. The earliest settlers knew him and said that he was a "good Injun" if one ever lived.

The Township of Cono was organized and set apart as a separate township on September 21, 1858. The order of the county judge to this effect follows: "Be it known, that on this 21st day of September, 1858, it hereby is ordered that a new township be formed of the thirty-six sections of Congressional township 87, range 8, in said county, and that it take the name Cono, all in accordance with the petition of Jonathan Simpson, W. McCaughy and others. Signed, Stephen J. W. Tabor, county judge."

The first election was held in 1858. George Anson, J. B. Gleason and Samuel Hovey were elected trustees; Martin C. Glass and M. Hampton, justices; W. McCaughy, assessor; and Edward Hovey, county supervisor.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT

The first permanent settlement in the township was made by John Cordell in 1843, on a small creek near the present site of Quasqueton. He came from Ohio and entered his land from the Government immediately on his arrival. He lived in this township only one year and then he moved to Liberty Township, where he resided until his death. In the fall of 1851 Cordell was one of the commissioners who surveyed the road from Quasqueton to the county seat of Marshall County. This was a state road. He died at Quasqueton in the year 1858.

William Rounds come to this township about 1852 and built his shanty on Sand Creek. He remained only a short time, however, having become very dissipated and deserted his family and went to Kansas where he died soon after. Mrs. Rounds went to Marion and the children were bound out.

Leander Keys and T. B. Burgess settled here in 1845 and are credited as having built the first frame house in the township. Keys was a carpenter by trade and Burgess was a tailor, but it is said that they worked at their respective trades only "occasionally." Burgess married a girl from Wisconsin, then rented his farm and went to that state, where he lived a short time, eventually returning and selling his interest in the farm, then going to Cedar Rapids, where he started a livery stable. Keys went to California in 1850, and after two or three years in that state, came back and married Cora Anna Coffin, of Delaware County. Then he moved to Independence and engaged in the dry goods business and was elected sheriff of the county while living here. He soon moved back to California and stayed there until his death.

George Anson, a native of England, came to this state in 1853 and worked at his trade as gunsmith in this township. The date of his departure is not known.

Morris Todd became a resident of Buchanan County in 1854, and in the year 1863 he moved to Cono Township and settled on section 3. For over twelve years he served the county as assessor, and also was a member of the county board of supervisors.

Jacob Kress settled here in 1856, coming from the State of Illinois. He was born in Baden Baden, Germany, in 1836. His marriage occurred in Cono in 1857. He resided here for a number of years and had one of the best farms in the county before his death.

Adam Gimpher came from Germany and settled in the south part of Cono Township in 1857. Henry Burnham became a settler of the township in 1857 and pursued his trade of blacksmith. He served the county once as supervisor and has been a director several times of the county schools. He possessed one of the good farms in the township, all of which land was built up by his labor and perseverance.

W. G. Anson became a resident of Cono Township in 1853 and here followed his trade as cabinet maker. He was a native Englishman. He married a Quasqueton girl, Harriet Blair. He gave up his trade a few years after coming to this country and then became a farmer.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Perhaps the first death to occur in the township was that of Allen Cordell, a son of John Cordell, in the summer of 1854.

The epidemic of fever and ague which struck the community in 1844 and 1845 seized upon nearly every person living here at that time. Dr. E. Brewer, living near Quasqueton, was the only available physician, so he attended to all of the cases.

L. Keys and T. K. Burgess raised the first wheat in the township in the summer of 1846.

The first white child born in the township was Lucien Stout.

It is said that the first marriage was between William Burway and Jane A. Cooper on February 5, 1854. D. C. Hastings and Margaret A. Cooper were also married on August 3d of that year.

A postoffice was established in the southeast part of the township about the year 1849 and H. H. Grimm was appointed postmaster. The office was abolished six years after. The postoffice at Rowley was established in the year 1873.

An Evangelical religious society was organized in 1857 and Rodolph Deipher was the first pastor. There were fifteen members at this time. In 1869 they constructed a house of worship near the center of the township. The society has been disbanded for a score of years.

### FAIRBANK TOWNSHIP

Fairbank Township was organized as a separate township on March 5, 1855. The county record follows: "It is ordered by the court that township 90 north, of range 10 west, be detached from Perry Township, and that it hereafter be and form a separate township to be called Alton and that an election be holden in said township on the first Monday in April next, at the house of George Beatty, in said township, and that George Beatty, Miles Soper and Sampson George be the judges of said election. The court further orders that the west tier of sections on township 90, range 9, be detached from Perry Township and hereafter form a part of Superior Township."

About a year after the above order was made the name of the township was changed to Fairbank and afterward the name Superior was changed to Hazleton.

Although the election was ordered for April it was not held until August of that year and then in a log schoolhouse owned by Charles Cheesbrough. The following were elected at this time: J. M. Soper, Jacob Minton and William Beatty, trustees; W. S. Clark, clerk; Fred Patterson, assessor; W. S. Clark and Fred Patterson, justices; and Justus Durham and James Patchen, constables.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT

William S. Clark made the first permanent settlement in the township in 1849, in the southern part, on the farm afterward owned by John C. Stephenson. Clark was the first magistrate of the township, also the first clerk, and is remembered as one of the earliest teachers.

Alexander Stevenson settled here in September, 1850, coming from the State of Indiana. He was one of the founders of the Presbyterian Church here.

Robert Wroten settled here in the fall of 1851. He also was a pioneer Presbyterian.

Justus A. Durham settled in the township in 1852. He lived in the southern part of the township all of his life.

F. J. Everett located in the north part of Fairbank Township in 1853. He and C. W. Bacon, who came with him built the first log cabin in that part

of the township. They shortly afterward built a saw mill on the Wapsie, where Fairbank is now located. In this business venture they were very successful. In 1860 Everett opened a store in the community. He also filled the offices of justice and school director during his life here.

Frederick Patterson came here in January, 1854, and settled near the location of Everett. He assisted in building the cabin owned by Everett and Bacon. Patterson soon erected a building which he used as a hotel, which tavern was probably the first one in the township. The same building, with additions, was later used by Jacob Myers for the same purpose. Patterson, with R. Conable and several other men, built a steam saw mill in 1855. In 1859, however, he sold out his interests and moved to Michigan, thence to Missouri.

Jordan Harrison became a settler here in the autumn of 1853, coming from Illinois. He immediately entered the land he selected from the Government and here spent his entire life.

Jacob Minton came in 1852 and constructed his log house in the south part of the township. He abandoned his family in April, 1865, and went to Indiana, thence to Texas where he married a woman who had departed from this township the same time as he. His first wife continued the management of the place here successfully and raised her children to good standing in the community.

George Beatty settled in the central part of the township in the fall of 1853. He was a Protestant Methodist preacher and constructed a small stone church at Fairbank Village.

J. M. Soper came to the north part in 1852 and was one of the organizers of the township and was elected trustee at the first election.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The first postoffice was established in this township in 1854 and C. W. Bacon was appointed postmaster. He kept the office in the small cabin which he and Everett had built when they first came. Fred Patterson was the first mail carrier, going once a week to Independence to get the mail. In 1866 an office was established in the southern part of the township and named Kier. James M. Walker was appointed the first postmaster. This office was abolished on June 30, 1902.

The first wheat raised in the township was in 1851 in the southern part, where the first settlement was made by Clark and Stevenson.

A cemetery was established in the Village of Fairbank in 1856. It is now owned and controlled by a cemetery company. Another was later established near the old Kier postoffice.

In the year 1855 a school was kept in the home of Charles Cheseborough by Emma Connor. In the same year another was added in the north part of the township and taught by Miss Lou Addis. Another was added in the Sill district by Moody Clark. Among the other early teachers were Capt. H. H. Sill, N. Baldwin and J. Byron Wait.

The first crop raised in the township was of corn by W. S. Clark in 1850. The first grist mill in the township was constructed by J. G. Hovey about 1854.



SCENE IN FAIRBANK



The first death here was that of a child of Solomon Ginter in 1852.

The first white child born in the township was Thomas Wroten.

The first marriage was probably between Solomon Ginter and Miss E. Phillips, the ceremony being performed by W. S. Clark in 1850.

In the year 1854 there was a saw mill constructed near the present Village of Fairbank by Bacon and Everett. It remained for two or three years. A grist mill and flouring mill was put up here about 1855 by Naylor and Harrington and later became the property of Minkler and Nichols. John McCuniff started a distillery here about 1856 on the east side of the river. He continued for three or four years very successfully, then for some unknown reason closed up. This was the only distillery ever in the township and county.

#### CITY OF FAIRBANK

In the year 1854 a village was laid out and platted in the north part of the township by F. J. Everett and C. W. Bacon and called Fairbank. Afterwards an addition was made thereto by Frederick Patterson and at this time there have been three or four more additions to the original plat. The first store to be opened in this new town was by John McCuniff in 1855, the lumber of which it was built being sawed from oak logs at Everett and Bacon's mill.

The City of Fairbank has had a rapid growth in the last few decades and is now one of the most enterprising and prosperous cities in the county. The advent of the Chicago and Great Western Railroad gave a decided impetus to the growth of the town, giving them a splendid trading and shipping facility.

The fact of the town's excellent condition is attested in no stronger way than by the two banks which do business there. The Fairbank State Bank was established first in 1891 as the Citizens Bank, a private institution, and on May 24, 1897, was chartered as the above first named, with the following first officers: G. W. McNeely, president; Charles Higbee, vice president; and W. F. Treadwell, cashier. The present officers are: C. B. Everett, president; G. W. McNeely, vice president; W. L. Murphy, cashier; A. H. Nieman, teller; F. W. Fox, bookkeeper.

The Farmers State Savings Bank was incorporated on May 24, 1910, with the following officers: L. Shoenuit, president; C. H. Kuenzel, vice president; G. F. Monroe, cashier. The present officers are: O. F. Leonard, president; F. A. Klinger, vice president; V. W. Davis, cashier; H. L. Mealey, bookkeeper.

More detailed history of these banks may be found in the second volume of this work.

Not only is the business and financial life of Fairbank well developed, but there is a social spirit which is commendable. The lodges of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America, Mystic Toilers and Relief Corps are all well represented in Fairbank with full membership, the Masons at this time being the strongest with about eighty members. This is Fairbank Lodge No. 148. There are also many clubs in the churches and several among the women of the town.

The City of Fairbank was incorporated in October, 1891. The petition to the county court for right of holding an election was signed by the following:

G. W. Bothwell, Allen Thompson, Theodore Dodge, S. J. King, and M. S. Hitchcock. The election was ordered on May 12, 1891.

#### RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES

The Baptist Society was organized in the township in the year 1859 with about eighteen members. Among these first members were: James Sanborn, J. A. Durham and wife, S. P. Cramer, Morrill Sanborn, E. Sanborn, Deacon Norris and wife, and Jason Nichols and wife. Shortly after the organization of this society they constructed a frame house of worship. In the early '90s another church building was erected, which has been remodeled several times since. The present membership is about one hundred and seventy-five and the congregation is in charge of Rev. Arthur Woods.

The Presbyterian Church was organized in the township in 1856 at what was called the Stone Church with six members, among whom were F. J. Everett, C. W. Bacon and James Sankey and wife. The first pastor and the one to whom a great deal of credit is due for the organization was J. D. Caldwell. The lack of members, however, has compelled the disbandment of this church. The last services were held some time in 1898.

The Lutheran Society in Fairbank was organized November 18, 1868, with twenty-seven members. The first preacher to attend this society was named Buckrer. Before the erection of their first house of worship in 1865 they held services in the public schoolhouse. This house of worship has been extensively remodeled and also a comfortable parsonage has been erected. The congregation at the present time numbers about forty people.

The Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception was organized here in about 1858 at the McCuniff schoolhouse. Father Shields, the resident priest of Waverly at that time, was the first to attend the Fairbank society. He was succeeded by Father John Gosker, of Independence. In 1868 the large stone church was constructed and the first priest to settle here was Eugene Sullivan, succeeded by G. Stack. Thomas Murtagh came next in 1875. The present church has been remodeled several times and a splendid pastoral residence, all of which is valued at about ten thousand dollars.

The Methodist Episcopal Society was organized in 1865 with eight members at the place then known as the Stone Church. There had been preachers in the township before this date of organization, but the number of people of the faith did not justify the formation of the society. The first sermon in the township was in 1852 at the house of Alexander Stevenson by Rev. D. Gill, of Independence. The church now possess a church structure and parsonage all valued at about the sum of three thousand dollars.

There are a number of people of the Episcopal faith in Fairbank, but there has never been a definite organization of the society. Meetings are held occasionally, however, in one of the other churches or in the school.

#### FREMONT TOWNSHIP

Fremont Township was set aside as a separate township in March, 1856. The order reads: "Ordered by the court that township 89, range 7, excepting





Immaculate Conception School      High School      Free Baptist Church  
 Catholic Church      Methodist Episcopal Church  
 Soldiers' Monument

VIEWS IN FAIRBANK



sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, together with sections 13, 24, 25 and 36, of town 89, range 8, and sections 1, 12 and 13, of town 88, range 8, and sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of town 88, range 7, be, and the same are hereby declared to be constituted as a separate precinct, to be called Prairie Precinct and it is ordered that an election be held in the said precinct on the first Monday in April next, at the schoolhouse, near the residence of Zenia R. Rich, in said township, for the purpose of electing one township clerk, two constables, two justices of the peace, three township trustees, one road supervisor, and one school-fund commissioner, for the county, Signed, O. H. P. Roszell, county judge."

The township was named in honor of John C. Fremont, the first republican candidate for President in the United States.

There have been many changes in the township since the date of organization. It now consists of Congressional township 89, range 7. When the first petition was delivered to the court asking for an organization it was then requested that the township be given its present name, Fremont, but the court refused this and named it Prairie. At the time of the second election in the township, however, the present title was given.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT

The first settlers in the township were Z. R. and S. W. Rich, two brothers, who came here in July, 1853. They were in the county the preceding year, but did not locate and enter land, hence could not be called settlers in that year. These two men, Z. R., with his family, built for themselves a lonely log cabin near the stage road from Independence to Coffins Grove, Delhi and Dubuque. Travelers on this road often stopped at the Rich cabin to spend the night or to rest their mounts. Their home may be called the first hotel in the township. Their marketing was done in Dubuque, fifty-five miles distant.

Alru Peck from New York settled in the township in April, 1855. He entered land from the Government. When he came there were in the township only the two Riches and James Fleming. Peck afterward became prominent in the affairs of the township and served as the first clerk.

Andrew Payne settled here in October, 1855, coming from the State of New York. He was a brother-in-law of Alru Peck and came here with the latter.

James Fleming settled in Fremont Township in July, 1854, coming direct from Wisconsin. He was a native of Massachusetts.

#### FIRST EVENTS

Z. R. Rich built the first schoolhouse in the township in 1856. Laura Peck, afterward Mrs. Toogood of Independence, was the first teacher in this log school. She held the position for two years. The school was supported by the two Rich brothers, for at the time there were no settlers within four miles in this township. In 1858 a school district was organized. The house constructed by Rich was rented for the first term and S. W. Rich was engaged to teach. No more schoolhouses were built until the closing years of the Civil war. The first one

was in the Fleming district in the southwest part of the township. Among the first teachers of this latter school were Laura Peek, Ellen Payne and S. W. Rich.

The first cemetery established in Fremont Township was in the southwest part, in 1855, on land donated for the purpose by James Fleming and Alru Peek. Quite a number of the early pioneers are buried at this place.

The first death was that of Omer Fleming on February 17, 1855.

The marriage of S. W. Rich and Emily Gaylord was the first in the community, occurring in 1854.

It is said that the first white child born here was Ella Rich. The birth happened December 29, 1853.

The first crop was raised in the township by Z. R. Rich during the year he came. It consisted of buckwheat and sod corn. The Rich brothers also raised the first wheat in the summer of 1854.

Creameries were established in the township in the '70s by C. W. Schoville and W. L. Mallory.

There never has been a town in this township, but the rich agricultural districts and the prosperity of the farmers residing within the township bounds make it one of the best in the county.

## HAZLETON TOWNSHIP

The Township of Hazleton was organized by order of the county judge in April, 1853, under the name of Superior Township. The township was then composed of thirty-six sections.

The first election was held on August 1, 1853, and the following is the result: James Huntington and Samuel Sufficool, justices of the peace; Nathan Peddycord, E. P. Spear and John Kint, trustees.

The name of the township was changed from Superior to Hazleton about the year 1862.

### SETTLEMENT

Samuel Sufficool and D. C. Greeley made the first permanent settlement here on February 21, 1847, and in the northwest part of the township. They had emigrated the previous year from Ohio, but stopped for a time in Linn County, Iowa. They came to the county the summer before and put up some hay in Buffalo Township. They also constructed a small shanty and spent the winter hunting and getting the place ready for spring. In the spring they built a log house with logs they had cut during the winter. Soon after this was completed Calvin Tuttle came with his wife and moved into it and with him Greeley and Sufficool lived. That season they broke a tract of sixty acres and raised a little sod corn.

William Bunce, with his wife and child, came in September, 1847, and built a log house near that of the two first settlers.

John Kint and family settled here August 17, 1846. They located on section 2, which land Kint afterwards bought from the Government. With Kint came Gilman Greeley and wife and his two sons, W. H. and Stephen L.

In June, 1848, Isaac Sufficool, the father of the first settler, came to the township and moved into the house of Sufficool and Greeley. Orlando Sufficool the same year settled in the southwest part of the township upon land which he had entered in 1847.

G. M. Miller came to this township in 1852 and settled upon land which he afterward purchased.

A. Belt settled here in 1852. He resided in the township for several years, then moved into Byron Township, this county.

James Girton came in 1851. Fayette Gillet, a New Yorker, settled in the west part of the township in 1854. W. C. Nelson, of Pennsylvania, settled at old Hazleton in 1853. He was the pioneer physician of the township. He also taught the first school established at the above village, which was then the only one in the township. E. W. Tenney settled here on September 28, 1853. Immediately upon his arrival he opened a store in old Hazleton, being the second man to do this in the township. L. D. Engle settled here with his family in 1851. W. W. Gilbert, a native of Ohio, settled in the township in the spring of 1854. He was noted as a hunter.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The first wedding in Hazleton Township was in 1848, between W. H. Greeley and Mary Ellen Sufficool, at the bride's residence. D. C. Greeley performed the ceremony.

The first white child born in the township was Wallae S. Sufficool on January 29, 1849.

The first wheat was raised by Samuel Sufficool in 1848.

Allen Coy was the first postmaster.

The first sawmill was constructed about 1854 by John Moorehouse on Otter Creek. Before he had completed it he sold it to Isaac Sufficool, who finished it and operated it for a number of years.

A tannery was started here in 1862 by E. W. Tenney, W. A. Nelson and S. Faulkner, which was the only one ever in existence here.

William Bunce made the first entry of land here in June, 1847, and at the same time the following also made entries: D. C. Greeley, W. H. Greeley and Orlando Sufficool.

After Coy the next postmaster was E. W. Tenney and at this time the office was moved  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south from the first site. At the present time Jacob Käfer is the postmaster, a position he has held for many years.

The first cemetery here was established in the fall of 1849 in the northeast part of the township near the point of the first settlement. In this cemetery the earliest settlers were buried. A second burying ground was established in 1855 in the center of the township.

Like the rest of the county the schools of this township were at first largely supported by subscription. In the fall of 1852 a large log schoolhouse was built in the northeast part of the township by D. C. Greeley and John Kint. Elizabeth Amelia Sayles taught a class of twelve scholars here that winter. Some of the early teachers were Abraham Wykooft, Stephen L. Greeley and C. W. Lillie.

## THE CITY OF HAZLETON

In the year 1852 a store and postoffice were started near where Suffeool and Greeley made their first settlement in 1841. The store was in charge of Allen Coy and he also acted as postmaster. Edward Hutchins soon bought this business. A small community of people lived in the vicinity of this store, but the place never grew and has gradually sunk into nothing, little remaining now but the site. The place has been known as Coytown.

In the year 1853 E. W. Tenney opened a store  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Coy's store. A postoffice was established there and given the name of Hazleton. Tenney served as postmaster. Three years later C. Weistman also opened up a general store and this little community quickly became the center of trade for the township. The coming of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad, in 1873, however, spelled the doom of this village. The route of the road lay one mile west from the village. Accordingly the stores, shops and nearly all of the dwelling houses were moved to a position directly on the railroad. This site is now the present City of Hazleton.

## BIG FIRE AT HAZLETON

On Friday morning, May 3, 1889, at 1:45, the inhabitants of the prosperous little town of Hazleton were rudely awakened from their deep slumber with the cry of fire and turned out to find the entire business portion of the place threatened with utter destruction. Having no regular organization, and but few facilities for fighting a fire, by the united efforts of the entire population the flames were soon got under control with the loss of but four buildings, the opera house, barber shop, one store and dwelling house. A loss of \$20,000 was caused in one hour.

The origin of the fire is unknown, but was supposed to be the work of an incendiary. The opera house, where the fire started, was a substantial frame building 40 by 80 feet and was erected some years previous by Mr. Pret King, at a cost of \$3,500. The furniture and fixtures cost about eight hundred dollars more. This was a great loss to the people of Hazleton. Arrangements had been made for a May Pole dance on the evening of the fire. South of the opera house was a store operated by Oscar Tuttle and in this was located the postoffice. Everything pertaining to the postoffice was completely destroyed and Mr. Tuttle's loss on stock of goods was estimated between thirteen thousand and fourteen thousand dollars.

Realizing the advantages of the steel road, the town soon began to pick up in commerce and trade and has now reached a high position in the county. For a period of twenty years the town began to have more courage, and, having the advantage of a splendid agricultural district surrounding, believed that the business of the town demanded incorporation. So, in the summer of 1892, the town was incorporated and the first meeting of the council was held on August 8, 1892. W. A. Nelson was the first mayor; W. G. Kiefer, recorder; A. W. Jarrett, D. N. King, E. A. Matteson, J. D. Lawrence and Henry Mignet, trustees. Following Nelson as the first mayor came in order: H. E. Searle, E. A. Matteson, P. E. Gardner, O. A. Bates, James E. Friars, E. H. Latham,



VIEW OF HAZLETON



OLD HAZLETON MILL





H. H. Hunt and Thomas Neteott, the latter at present in office. The other officers at present are: W. G. Kiefer, treasurer; George J. Wengert, clerk; W. S. Woodworth, T. E. McCurdy, W. L. Miller, Henry Miguet and J. Cappel, councilmen.

Hazleton has two banks, the Iowa State Bank and the Hazleton State Bank, both of which are in excellent condition. The Iowa State Bank was officially organized on March 31, 1913, by R. B. Raines, R. G. Swan, J. B. Truax, W. E. Bain and M. A. Smith. Swan was the first and present head of the institution; H. F. Suhr is the vice president; and J. N. Smith is the cashier. The capital stock is \$25,000 and the amount of deposits at the present time is \$80,000. The bank, upon its organization, bought the corner lot next to where they are now located and are going to move into this location very soon.

The Hazleton State Bank was organized in the month of May, 1893. The incorporators were T. E. McCurdy, M. M. Miguet, O. M. Gillett, Frank Miguet, A. W. Jarrett, O. P. King and Theodore Messenger. T. E. McCurdy was the first president; N. M. Miguet, vice president, and Willis G. Kiefer, cashier. These officers have not been changed, with the exception of vice president, since the establishment of the bank. The capital stock is \$25,000, the surplus \$40,000, and the deposits amount to \$225,000. The present bank building was bought at the time of organization. The bank magazine, *The Financier of New York*, in 1910, gave the Hazleton State Bank fourth on the roll of honor of Iowa. The three leading banks were old established institutions at the time the Hazleton Bank was organized.

Another distinct feature of the Town of Hazleton is the fair which is held here every year. The fair is in charge of the Hazleton District Fair Association and was first started in the year of 1894. This exhibit has steadily grown, until now it is conceded to be better in respects than the county fair held at Independence. G. M. Miller and J. B. Shackelford were the men to first start this fair, using their own money to pay the expenses and also to give cash premiums. Shackelford retired after one year and then Miller operated it alone every year until three years ago. Tents are raised to house the exhibit each year, and besides this there are many amusements and entertainments for the people. Exhibits of live stock, vegetables, grain and all farm products are shown. The fair lasts one day and is generally held on the third Wednesday in September.

#### KIEFER BANK FAILURES

The Kiefer brothers moved to the City of Hazleton in 1877 and very soon after started a private bank in connection with their store. In the early '80s they moved the bank into a separate building and conducted a very extensive business until March, 1913, when they were forced into involuntary bankruptcy. The liabilities amounted to several hundred thousand dollars and what might be realized out of the assets has not been definitely determined.

The Kiefer Savings Bank was organized on September 14, 1908, with \$10,000 capital. Adam Kiefer was president; E. R. Prindle, vice president; K. K. Kiefer, cashier; and William Smith, assistant cashier. In March, 1913, a receiver was appointed and in May of the same year the court ordered an assessment against

the stockholders. At the time of the failure Adam Kiefer was president; K. K. Kiefer, vice president; and William Smith, cashier.

The failure of both of these banks is of recent occurrence and so much feeling exists that we deem it inadvisable to attempt any detailed account of it.

The first newspaper to be established in Hazleton was the Hazleton Pioneer, begun in March, 1900, by Taylor and Armstrong. This continued about a year and then died. The next paper was Hazleton Advance, which was started by J. C. Seeley on March 14, 1902. The life of this paper was about four years. The next and last sheet to be published was the Hazleton Free Press, started February 22, 1908, by E. S. Holmes. On March 25, 1910, this paper was discontinued. With the exception of the last named all of the papers were weekly. The last was semi-weekly.

On March 13, 1884, Capt. H. W. Holman organized a Grand Army of the Republic Post at Hazleton, with twenty-seven members. Among these members were: W. A. Wilson, commander; B. H. Miller, T. E. McCurdy, R. G. Merrill, T. C. Nelson, J. A. Ward, Pret King, A. D. Allen, John Delan, C. H. Shreeve. These men were the early officers. The Post is still in existence, although greatly shrunk in numbers.

The Hazleton Opera House was ebriasted on June 1 and 2, 1881. The initial performance was that of "The Merchant of Venice," with Professor Gibney and Nellie Wilkins in the leads, assisted by a competent cast of local talent. This place of entertainment is used frequently now for plays of good character and motion picture exhibitions.

A new brick and stone school was started in Hazleton in the year 1914 and is rapidly nearing completion. The cost of the building will be close to fifteen thousand dollars, and when it is finished Hazleton will have one of the most up-to-date schools in the county. N. M. Miguet, president, and George Wengert, E. N. Fortner, L. Gerstenberger and Henry Suks, directors, were largely responsible for this improvement.

#### BRYANTBURG

Bryant was the first name of the small town now known as Bryantburg. It was originally a flag station on the railroad between Hazleton and Independence on the Rock Island. In January, 1885, it became a regular station and was made a postoffice. Alvin Johnson was the first postmaster.

The Bryantburg Savings Bank was organized on June 21, 1913, and chartered on October 11th of the same year. The capital stock is \$10,000. Alfred Hanson is president; J. H. Menzel, vice president, and O. B. Batcheler is the cashier. The bank was organized by Rich H. Smith, M. L. Batcheler, O. B. Batcheler, C. V. Spezia, E. J. O'Connor, Isaac, Alf and I. L. Hanson, all of Oelwein except the Batchelers.

#### RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES

The Methodist Episcopal Society had their first organization about the year 1852. The home of A. Belt first served as a meeting house. Among the first members of this society were: A. Belt and wife; Nathan Peddycord and



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT, HAZLETON



METHODIST CHURCH, HAZLETON



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HAZLETON



wife; C. S. Belt, and Mr. Russell and wife. Reverend Shippen preached the first sermon. At first the society held occasional services at the schoolhouse and in private residences. In the year 1879 a building was erected and this structure has since been extensively remodeled. The society at the present time has a membership of about eighty people.

The first Presbyterian Church was organized here in 1874 at the home of John Long by Rev. J. D. Caldwell. Their first services were held in the Methodist Episcopal Church. This church has a small but active membership at the present time.

The Catholic Church of Hazleton was first organized in 1881 by Reverend Father Grady. At this time a small frame church was constructed. In the year 1905 the present handsome church was built, also the parsonage. Reverend O'Donnell followed Grady at this pastorate and then came Father McNamee, and then the present priest, N. M. Homan. There are forty-seven families in this church. Father Homan also attends the Lamont Catholic Church where there are sixty families.

An organization of Free Will Baptists was formed here in July, 1879. They first held services in the schoolhouse in district No. 9 in the southwest part of the township, until the building of the present church at Bryantburg in 1900. The church now has a membership of fifty people.

The Methodists also have a church and a building in the northeast corner of the township named Prairie Center Church. There is a membership here of about fifty people also.

### HOMER TOWNSHIP

Homer Township was organized on July 29, 1858. The record of the county court says: "Be it known that on the petition of James D. Phillips, Eli Norton and others, the court aforesaid, this twenty-ninth day of July, 1858, constitutes and forms a new township in said county, as follows: The whole thirty-six sections of the Congressional township 87, range 9, in said county. And it is also ordered that the new township thus formed be called the name of Homer, in accordance with the wishes of the voters thereof. Signed, Stephen J. W. Tabor, county judge."

Before this order, or from May 22, 1852, the township had been a part of Jefferson. The first settlements in the Township of Jefferson, that is the original township, were along the creeks near where Brandon is now located.

The first election in Homer Township was held at the house of Nathan Norton in September, 1858. Twelve votes were cast, of which eight were republican. The first officers were: L. S. Allen, Joseph L. Norton and Eli Norton, trustees; Eli Norton and L. S. Norton, justices; L. S. Allen, county supervisor; James Norton and D. O. Sweet, constables; Joseph L. Norton, assessor; Dyer Shealy, township clerk; John Sites and James Norton, road supervisors.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT

Thomas Kendrick and family made the first settlement in Homer Township in the fall of 1853, locating on the banks of Bear Creek. For two years pre-

vious they had lived in Jefferson Township. Kendrick there constructed a rude cabin and entered upon life, a life soon to be broken by one of the saddest tragedies ever visited upon man. Of his thirteen children ten of them died in the year 1868, within eight weeks of each other. Diphtheria and scarlet fever were the fatal diseases. Kendrick himself became insane over this blow and he died within a year after his ten children. Mrs. Kendrick afterward married Charles Kountz, of Independence.

Price Kendrick, a brother of the first settler in the township, settled here in 1854. With him came his two sisters, Mrs. Holland and Mrs. Robinson. His death occurred two years after his coming to the township.

D. O. Sweet settled here in 1855, coming from New York State. He was honored with the office of constable at the first election held in the township.

Joseph L. Norton, a Pennsylvanian, settled in Homer Township in 1855, but subsequently moved to Kansas. He married Sarah Kessler, daughter of one of the first settlers in the county.

Joseph McGary came from Vermont and bought a farm here in 1858 and the next year built the first stone house in the township, and which is still used as a residence on his land and there he, with his brother-in-law Murphy, kept house together. His family consisting of his mother and four sisters arrived within the next two years, one of whom was Murphy's wife.

Lyman S. Allen, a native of Ticonderoga, New York, came with his family in 1834 and settled in Homer Township. The frame house which he built there is still standing and occupied by his son Stephen M. Allen.

Nathan Norton came to the township in 1855 from McHenry County, Illinois. The first election held in Homer Township was held at his home.

John Bain settled in the township in July, 1858, on Bear Creek. He came from the Hoosier State.

Eli Norton came to Iowa in 1854 and first settled in Liberty Township, but came to Homer Township the next year. Here he bought a farm and lived upon it the rest of his life.

#### SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

The first church society in the township was the Methodist Episcopal. A class was formed in 1858 by Rev. John Fawcett and he served as their first preacher. Among the early members of this church were: Eli Norton and wife; Nathan Norton, Sr., and wife; and John D. Price and wife. They built a meeting house in 1868 about a half mile from the present site of Rowley, but the building was blown down in the summer of 1875. The railroad company presented them with a lot in the Town of Rowley, provided that the church would erect a building upon it, which they did. This they did and the church still stands, although it has been remodeled a number of times since the building of it. The class at present numbers about a hundred members.

The first Presbyterian Church to be organized in the township was in 1873, immediately after the building of the railroad. Rev. George Carroll was the first preacher and he held services at first in the railroad depot, where with seven members he organized the society. In 1898 a church building was put



COMPANY C, 9TH IOWA REGIMENT IN 1902



G. A. R. REUNION AT HAZLETON





up at Rowley and there the society is now very strong and prosperous. The congregation numbers about one hundred people.

The Catholic Church was established in Rowley in the late '90s and is still in existence, although there is no regular pastor. A \$3,000 building has been erected and the congregation is composed of about thirty-five families.

#### SCHOOLS

The first school in the township was opened in 1856 by Mrs. Sarah C. Price in her own house in the eastern part of the township. Her class was composed of twelve scholars. The next winter a school was conducted by John Bain, Sr., in the west part of the township at the house of George Boone. Thirteen pupils attended this school.

The first schoolhouse was built near the present Town of Rowley. The second one was constructed on land donated to the district by Joseph McGary and the third building was located in the Boone district. The schoolhouse known as the Delaware School erected on the McGary land is still used for a schoolhouse and is the oldest one in the county.

Since these early days the schools have attained a very superior quality. Efficient district schools have been erected and the schools of Rowley are excellent. The building in the latter town was erected in 1901 and is thorough and well equipped with the conveniences of the modern schoolhouse. A commissioned high school is maintained in Rowley, at present having about sixty pupils.

Among the other early teachers of the township besides those mentioned were: Mary McGary, Betsy L. Patterson, Oscar L. Luckey and Lizzie Taylor; the latter afterwards married Doctor Griffin.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Before the advent of the railroad there was no postoffice in the township, the people getting their mail at neighboring offices. In 1873 a postoffice was established at Rowley and J. W. Cooper was appointed the first postmaster.

The first wedding is said to have been that of Don F. Bissel and Aurelius Bishop in the fall of 1856. About the same time Reuben Crum was married to Wealthy Allen.

The first death was that of George Boone in 1858.

#### ROWLEY

Rowley is the only town in the township and had its conception with the building of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern, now the Rock Island, railroad in the fall of 1873. The town was named in honor of D. W. C. Rowley, who was secretary of the railroad company when the line reached the town.

The first store opened here in this year and was operated by J. W. Cooper. J. I. Prentiss in the grain, seed, cattle and hog business, C. E. Hawley and associates in the dry goods and grocery trade, J. B. Edgell, William J. Miller, D. C. Tuttle, keeper of the Rowley House, George H. Norton, Slater and Wilson,

Oessmer, Dr. O. G. McCauley and others were among the first business men of the new town. One saloon was there in an early day, kept by an old German, but this pleasure has been ousted from the town many years hence.

The Town of Rowley in the past twenty years has not become a city, having yet to be incorporated, but the business air and civic pride are well developed considering the size of the place. There are many business houses in operation and all doing uniformly well, assisted by the convenience of the Rock Island as a shipping point. The several lodges, including the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen create a spirit of good fellowship among the people, also the three churches and the clubs formed among the women of the town. The town is surrounded by a rich agricultural district and this, in large measure, accounts for the success of the place from a business standpoint.

The Rowley Bank was organized on July 1, 1902, by Mrs. Lizzie Rentz, George Rentz and C. Gunzenhauser. The first capital stock, as at present, was \$10,000. In December, 1905, George Rentz sold his stock in the bank to C. Gunzenhauser and on July 3, 1908, Mrs. Lizzie Rentz sold to the same man. The capital stock and surplus now amount to about twenty thousand dollars. C. Gunzenhauser is cashier and George Rentz is assistant cashier. The bank has no charter yet. The institution owns its own building, bought at the time of organization.

#### THE ROWLEY FIRE

On Tuesday evening, July 10, 1894, the Village of Rowley was visited by fire. The fire broke out about 9:30 in the evening and at 11 o'clock the whole business portion on both sides of the street was destroyed. The fire originated in the back room of Norton & Clayton's Hardware Store. The origin is a mystery, the blaze being the first intimation of the fire.

The room where the fire started was used as an oil depot and the fire spread very quickly over the oil soaked floor and ignited a keg of gun powder which exploded. The total loss of the fire was about twenty-five thousand dollars.

#### JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

It is recorded that the first actual settlers in Jefferson Township were J. B. Stainbrook and his family on June 13, 1850. He came from the State of Pennsylvania, having been born there on September 29, 1823. Stainbrook's first act after coming to this country was the entering of land from the Government and later he purchased the same land. The log house he constructed stood for many years as a monument to the early settlement of the county. His brother-in-law, Henry Albert, also came with him, but later settled in Benton County.

In the fall of 1850 Peter Albert, the father-in-law of J. B. Stainbrook, came to the township accompanied by his wife and four children; Nicholas Albert and family; and Phillip Zinn with his wife and four children. These people composed the colony during the winter of 1850. Their supplies were obtained from Cedar Rapids, and the trip was generally made in three days, averaging ten miles per day. Once a week they sent a man thirty miles to Marion for their mail. Outside of these necessary excursions the only departure from the cabins was when the men started to hunt the wild game for food.



Photo by Gilbert

STREET SCENE IN ROWLEY



Another of the early settlers of this community is Jacob Fouts. He was born in the State of Ohio in 1808 and came to Iowa in 1852. He lived here until his death in 1874.

William Rouse settled in Jefferson Township in February, 1851, on land which he afterward entered from the Government. He was a native of Tennessee. John Rouse, or Jack as he was called, father of William, came to section 13 in 1851, where he settled a tract of twenty acres. He was noted as a great hunter and he spent most of his time while here in the pursuit of the pleasure. The game becoming more scarce he moved to Nebraska in 1862. The first election in the township was held in his house and he himself was elected one of the magistrates. Abel Cox, son-in-law of John Rouse, and a native of Indiana, came in the spring of 1851 and settled near Rouse, on the same section.

John Frink settled in this community in 1852, coming from the State of Illinois. He first settled in a grove three miles north of Brandon, the place still bearing his name. An act of the general assembly of 1856 said that the name of Frink's Grove be changed to Avon. He was one of the first magistrates in the township. His son, John, kept a tavern on the state road in the early days. This was the first and only whiskey house in the township. This grove later became known as Shady Grove and a postoffice was established there. The office was subsequently abolished. At present there is a store in the village and a few residences.

#### ORGANIZATION

The Township of Jefferson was set aside by order of the county judge on March 1, 1852. The record of the order is as follows: "It is ordered by the court that township 87, range 9, and township 87, range 10, of the County of Buchanan, compose one precinct to be called Jefferson Precinct, and that an election be held in said precinct, on the first Monday in April next, at the house of John Rouse." A change was made in the township on July 29, 1858, when Congressional township 87, range 9, was severed therefrom and constituted one township under the name of Homer.

The first election was held at the home of John Rouse at the above date and eleven votes were cast. J. B. Stainbrook, Abel Cox and Joseph Rouse were elected as trustees; John Rouse and John Frink were selected as justices; Alonzo Frink, assessor; and John Rice, township clerk.

The second election was held where Brandon now stands, on Lime Creek, with about the same number of votes.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The first school in Jefferson Township was a private or subscription school. A petition was circulated around among the people of the township for the purpose of hiring a teacher and buying a stove. Enough money was raised in this manner to justify the opening of the class. Jacob Fouts gave them a log house, or the use of it, in the Village of Brandon. Mrs. William Boyles was selected to be the teacher of the new school. The first class was composed of twenty scholars. This was in the winter of 1854.

The first regular schoolhouse was constructed in Brandon on Lime Creek by Ed Webster. Soon after another was built in the Lizer district and also one in the Boone district. In the year 1880 a large modern school was constructed in Brandon and in the early years of the twentieth century an excellent brick edifice was put up for the accommodation of the grade schools and the high school. Among the early teachers in this vicinity were Wellington Town and R. P. Nelson.

The early physicians were Drs. B. F. Muelmore, Stimpson and J. B. Darling. The first hotel was kept by E. C. Wilson. The first blacksmith was Free Youndt. The first entry of land was made by William McCay on section 28. The first wedding of which there is any account was that of Davis Fouts and Julia Albert on August 5, 1852. They resided here until 1877 when they moved to Woodbury County.

The years 1855 and 1856 are years remembered by every old settler. In the former year occurred a very early frost, coming on August 31st, and the corn crop was entirely destroyed. In the next year a terrific hail storm, coming out of the north, passed through the township and again destroyed the corn crop. Scarcely a stalk was left standing. Roofs of the cabins were blown away and one or two houses were turned over. It is said that even the bark on the north side of the trees was blown off. The following winter was one of the most severe in the history of the county. The snow obtained at one time the depth of four feet on the level. Many of the settlers lived on boiled corn which they procured in Linn County at \$1.25 per bushel.

The first fruit was cultivated in that township by John S. Bouck. He began the first fruit nursery and possessed a splendid orchard in the northwestern part of the township. Severe winters soon destroyed his trees and plants, however.

A cemetery was established in the township in 1853 and was located on the farm owned by Mr. Beachler, about a mile from Brandon. The first person buried here was a little girl by the name of Pella, who was accidentally burned to death. This was also the first death in the township. The second to be interred in the cemetery was Noah Taylor, a youth of eighteen years, in 1854.

In 1859 a second cemetery was established near Brandon and adjoined the plat on the west at that time. The third was located two miles east of Brandon, at Green Wood Chapel, under the management of the Wesleyan Methodists.

#### THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS OF BRANDON

In the early spring of 1911 an election was held in Jefferson Township, at Brandon, to consider whether or not to consolidate the schools. After this election was over, the judges of election discarded three ballots which were mutilated. The count then stood one vote in favor of consolidation. The school continued as a consolidated school the next year. In the meantime an injunction was brought by those opposed to consolidation and in the fall of 1912 the question was taken before the county court. The court decided that the three ballots which had been discarded should be counted. As one of them was for and two of them against consolidation, it resulted unfavorably to the former result. The court gave the township one month to call another election. When

this was held, it was conducted under the new law which had passed the legislature, stating that elections in townships should be held in the town and township separately. School was dismissed for one month prior to this election.

When the ballots were counted, the votes in Brandon were a majority of twenty-one for the consolidation and four in favor of the consolidation in the township, making twenty-five majority in all.

This new method of education has done away with the numerous small district schools and brings the scholars of the township into closer and more general communication with each other. The old school building at Brandon was extensively remodeled in the year 1911. This is a new feature in Iowa, having gradually been coming West from the Eastern states. Three transportation haeks are used to carry the pupils from their homes to the school. There are now five teachers employed in the consolidated school, which school is under the supervision of the district directors as heretofore.

#### TOWN OF BRANDON

The present Town of Brandon is located in the southwestern portion of Jefferson Township. The village was platted and laid out by S. P. Brainard, Jacob Fouts and E. C. Wilson in the year 1854.

The first store to be opened up and the first stock of goods to be put on sale was by S. P. Brainard. W. H. Fouts soon after became his partner in the business and subsequently bought the interest of Brainard and continued the business alone for several years. S. P. Brainard was also the first postmaster when the office was established in 1855 in the town and W. H. Fouts was the second. A. B. Edwards, James Romig, J. N. Bissell, Nellie Bissell and John Bain were other early postmasters.

From a small inland town sixteen miles from the county seat and with no railroad, Brandon has made rapid strides and is one of the best towns of its size in Iowa. With the advent of the Cedar Valley Road, electric interurban, close connection with the Waterloo, Cedar Falls and within the last two months with Cedar Rapids, has been established. This was in 1906. There are over forty freight and passenger trains daily over this road and the freight shipments from Brandon exceed those of any other town on the road. As an instance, in the two months of September and October more grain and hogs were shipped from Brandon than any other town in Buchanan County.

#### INCORPORATION

The Town of Brandon was incorporated in the year 1905. The first regular meeting of the city council was held on April 3d of that year. W. D. McLiesh was mayor; W. W. Bain, clerk; R. A. Buckmaster, treasurer; John Bain, M. J. Hyde, J. H. Douglas, J. E. Haines, C. C. Thompson and W. E. Miller, councilmen.

In 1906 J. H. Douglas and E. Lizer were chosen as councilmen. On April 2d James Bearhower was appointed marshal. W. D. McLiesh resigned his office as mayor on June 4, 1906, and on August 28th W. Jameson was appointed by the city council to fill the vacancy. On February 11, 1907, W. Jameson filed

a bond as assessor. On April 1, 1907, Robert Shillinglar and W. E. Miller were elected councilmen. W. W. Bain was elected mayor this year. Charles W. McClintick was appointed marshal, B. B. Brown was appointed street commissioner and R. H. Hamer appointed clerk. On December 2, 1907, the office of treasurer was declared vacant by the council and V. W. Doris was elected to fill the vacancy. In 1908 M. Nelson was sworn in as a member of the council. On August 7th W. A. Albert was appointed clerk to fill the vacancy made by the resignation of R. H. Hamer. At the 1909 election W. W. Bain was elected mayor; V. W. Doris, treasurer; E. W. Miller, assessor; C. C. Thompson and L. A. Bachler, councilmen. W. A. Albert was elected clerk later. J. L. Weart was appointed street commissioner to succeed McClintick. J. W. Hines was made marshal. On December 6th Nelson and Shillinglar moved away and C. R. Bolton and J. S. Blair were appointed to fill the vacancy. The 1911 city election resulted as follows: J. S. Blair, mayor; Walter Jameson, assessor; V. W. Doris, treasurer; L. N. Trunk, street commissioner; James Hines, marshal; W. A. Albert, clerk; C. Bollen, J. L. Weart, W. H. Albert, W. E. Miller, W. H. Crumrine, councilmen. On February 20, 1912, W. Jameson resigned as assessor and Levi Zwinger was appointed to fill the vacancy. The subject of a jail was brought before the council on May 6, 1912, and they decided to construct a bastille 10 by 12 by 8 feet in size. On July 1st the council prohibited the firing of firecrackers in the town. The city election of March, 1913, disclosed the following result: J. L. Weart, mayor; W. A. Albert, clerk; W. J. Romig, assessor; Clair Short, treasurer; James Hines, marshal; W. H. Crumrine, street commissioner; J. E. Blair, A. E. Briggs, W. T. Ernster, W. H. Albert and M. W. Kanouse, councilmen.

On June 5, 1914, the town voted on the question of acquiring electricity for the townspeople. The election resulted 50 to 5 in favor of the new utility. Electricians are at present busy erecting poles and wiring the homes of the town and by December 1, 1914, the current will be turned on. The current is bought by the city from the interurban company and is sold to the patrons at a 12 cent rate. The town is making arrangements to maintain thirty street lights. This is the first public utility for Brandon, but plans will be pushed through in the future for further conveniences for the residents.

#### BANKS

The Farmers Savings Bank was opened for business on May 12, 1913; the date of the charter is April 21, 1913. The president of this bank is J. D. Sweeney; B. F. Nabholz is vice president, and E. E. Strait is cashier. The capital stock at the present time is \$16,000 and the amount of deposits is \$65,000. With the opening of the bank the entire corner in which the office is located was bought and is now given a valuation of \$3,500.

The Brandon State Savings Bank was organized on March 7, 1906, as a state bank. The present officers are: R. F. Clark, president; Theodore Peck, vice president; W. W. Bain, cashier; directors, R. F. Clark, B. W. Davis, F. P. Davis, Roy A. Cook, Nathan Mass, L. H. Tucker and N. E. Parker. The capital stock is \$20,000 and the amount of deposits is \$70,000.





METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,  
BRANDON



CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BRANDON



PUBLIC SCHOOL, BRANDON



## SOCIAL LIFE

The people of Brandon have the reputation of upholding a very high standard of social life in the town. There are many small clubs in the town and each is active in maintaining the proper character of the community. In fact, each and every person considers it his especial duty to guarantee the best surroundings for the children who are growing up and receiving their education here.

The fraternal societies are very strong, among them being the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Rebekahs, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Modern Brotherhood of America and the Yeomen, the latter a lodge recently instituted in Brandon.

A Grand Army of the Republic Post was established at Brandon in 1888. This Post has not been active for several years, owing to the scarcity of members.

## CHURCHES OF JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

The first church to be started in Jefferson Township was the Methodist. The first services were held in private homes as it was some time before the society could build a house of worship. Schoolhouses were also utilized for the purpose of holding meetings. In May, 1856, Rev. D. Donaldson organized the first Methodist Society at the house of J. G. Williams, with a first class of only five members, namely: J. G. Williams, Caroline F. Williams, Thomas Brandon and wife, and daughter Maria. In 1870, the year the frame church was constructed, there was held in Brandon the biggest revival service in the history of the church. Enoch Holland was the pastor who conducted these services. At this meeting the proposition for a new church building came before the people and J. B. Stainbrook nobly donated one lot to the church and sold an adjoining lot for the small sum of \$25. Upon this lot the frame church was constructed, the church which is now the east half of the new structure. The revival meeting which preceded the construction of this church was held in the small schoolhouse back of the present meat market. Reverend Tinkham was the first pastor in the new church. This church was in the circuit formed by Spring Creek, Bear Creek, Brandon and the Cedar Valley. The church is in splendid condition at the present time, having about one hundred and fifty members and several active societies in the church. Five years ago the old frame church was extensively remodeled and additions made. This year, 1914, a handsome parsonage has been erected and is one of the most modern houses in the town. Rev. H. W. Artman is the present pastor. Before him the following named acted in this capacity: Reverends Tinkham, B. C. Barnes, W. N. Fawcett, Wilkinson, Albert A. Woods, Daniel Sheffer, O. D. Bowles, John M. Rankin, J. B. Jones, D. N. Cooley, R. F. Hurlburt, Rickards, Smith, Jesse Smith, Enoch Holland, Baker, B. L. Garrison, Wyrick, B. A. Wright, J. J. Littleler, Jacob Haymond, Alonzo Camp, W. H. Lusted, W. N. Brown, F. G. Young, E. R. Leman, John Dawson, J. D. Perry, R. M. Ackerman, W. E. Ross, J. H. Hayward, O. M. Sanford, J. B. Metcalf, Jesse Underwood, J. B. Shoemaker; these names are not in the order of their service as this information was impossible to discover. It is known, however, that all of these men served the church as pastor.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church was organized in February, 1867, with about twenty-five members. D. P. Parker was their preacher at this time. The church was known as Greenwood Chapel. This church no longer exists in Buchanan County, having been moved west four miles in Black Hawk County about twenty years ago.

The Reformed Church in the United States was organized December 1, 1860, with twenty members. Rev. Joshua Raile was the first pastor. This church passed out of existence about twenty years ago.

The Christian Church in Brandon was organized on August 3, 1856, in the country north of the city. John Martindale organized the class. The first elders in the church were: W. H. Elliott and wife, Frederick Yount and Mary Yount. The other first members were: Davis Fouts, Juliet Fouts, George W. and Susan Short, Henry and Mary Fouts, Aunt Betsy Fouts, Elsie Fouts, George W. Byfield, Darah Boon, John S. and Lizzie Coats, Emeretta Steckman, W. E. and Isabel Bain, Rhoda E. Albert, Susan Tracy, Robert H. Elliott and wife, John and Eliza Bain. A frame church was constructed in 1892, costing \$1,500. The present church society consists of eighty members and the societies now active in the church are the Ladies' Aid, the Young People's Christian Endeavor, the Christian Women's Board of Missions. The pastors who have served this church are in order: John Martindale, Josiah Jackson, Cain, Alpheus Applegate, O. E. Brown, Solomon Cross, John Crocker, Daniel Dunkelberger, Overbaugh, Hastings, Samuel B. Ross, Earl Lockhart, Hollett, Kefford, E. Curliss, Carroll, John McKee, Ferguson and Gust H. Cachiaras. For a year and a half the church has been without a regular pastor.

#### LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

Liberty Township is a regular Congressional township six miles square. In the year 1847 the county was divided into three precincts, namely: Washington, Spring or Centre, and Liberty. The latter then comprised the south half of Middlefield, the south half of Liberty, except sections 19, 20, 21, 30, 31 and 32, all of Cono except section 6, and sections 12, 13, 24, 25 and 36 of Newton. Also, the north half of Liberty then comprised a part of Spring Precinct. Quasqueton was the voting place of the Liberty Precinct, as it had been at one time for the entire county.

On the 5th of September, 1859, Liberty Township was reduced to its present size and form.

This township has always been recognized as one of the best in the county. The township has an advantageous location, with fertile land and several small hills and valleys. At one time there were numerous sloughs in the township, but these have been largely drained, leaving the rich, black loam for the cultivation of crops. The soil, however, varies in different parts of the township. There are said to be three or more particular soils. When the first settlers came to this township about half of it was covered with a dense mass of timber. The native trees are the white oak, bur oak, red oak, black oak, soft maple, sugar maple, white and red elm, linden, walnut, butternut, hackberry, poplar, aspen, cottonwood, shagbark, bitter nut, ash and water birch.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT

The first white settler in this township, and in the county, was William Bennett. In February, 1842, he came to Quasqueton from Ede's Grove, Delaware County. Bennett was not a man who was liked by those who knew him, for he bore a bad reputation and was reputed to be dishonest. The first house in Quasqueton was constructed by Bennett, of logs with a bark and dirt roof. Here he lived with his wife and three little daughters. It stood on the bank of the river, some twelve rods above the mill, and near the foot of the present Walnut Street.

A few weeks after Bennett's arrival S. G. Sanford and his family came in and built their home a quarter of a mile south of Quasqueton on the later Cordell place. His brother, H. T. Sanford, a carpenter, lived with him. Ezra G. Allen also lived in a hut nearby. On the last day of April, 1842, a band of emigrants arrived, the band including seven men, two women and three children. Their names were: R. B. Clark, Dr. E. Brewer, Frederick Kessler, J. Lambert, Simmons and Daggett, Mrs. R. B. Clark, Mrs. Frederick Kessler, Mason and Seth Clark and Sarah C. Kessler. Clark and Brewer built the first house on the west side of the river. These men were native to the State of Wisconsin, particularly Exeter, Greene County. Brewer was originally from Massachusetts; and Clark of Cleveland, Ohio, or the site of Cleveland. Kessler was a Pennsylvanian and died several years after his coming here, in the mining camps of California. He built a rude house here half a mile west of Clark and Brewer's, on the later Boies farm. This band of settlers found the country green and fresh with the early spring. The following summer, however, was very dry and there was a frost every month in the year, which made it very difficult for the men to raise successful crops. Consequently they looked with discouraged eyes toward the coming winter.

The first white child born in the township and in the county was born during this summer. It is said to have been Charles B. Kessler and the date of his birth July 13, 1842. He died in the Union service during the Civil war, in April, 1864.

During the summer of '42 a man named Style came to Quasqueton and lived in a small log cabin a short distance from the mill. Soon after he added to his house and for a short time ran a hotel. This was the first really public house in the township.

Hugh Warren, a good-for-nothing, was another resident of the community and several other fellows, by name Warner, Jeffers, Wall, Day and Evans, all of them in the employ of Bennett. During this same summer Bennett constructed a dam across the river, using logs and sod, and about the first of October started the building of a mill. He and his men made large claims to the land and it is said that at one time they claimed nearly all of the center portion of the county, but, as is known, they were not the class of men to stay long and soon moved away farther west.

On October 5th William Haddon came to the Brewer neighborhood and resided with Mr. Kessler. A fortnight later there came to the same neighborhood a brother of Mrs. Kessler and Nathaniel and Henry B. Hatch. Later in the fall William Johnson came. He claimed to be a Canadian patriot from the

islands of the St. Lawrence. He was accompanied by a daughter whom he introduced as his daughter Kate. Johnson located in the Postle neighborhood, about midway between Independence and Quasqueton, and here he tried to found a town which would be the county seat. His true status as a man shortly became known and quite a disliking to him grew up in the neighborhood.

November of that year came in with a terrific snow storm. Kessler's poor shanty proved to be little better than nothing in the face of the gale and it was decided to move the occupants to the home of Clark and Brewer, which was the most modern of all the houses in the community. The men carried the women and children the few miles separating the houses and were thoroughly exhausted when they reached their destination, so furious was the storm. The storm continued for two days and on the third the sun rose clear. The men started back to the Kessler cabin to see how it had fared during the storm. They found the snow almost completely hiding it. The inside was packed solid with it. Kessler and the others dug the snow out, broke a path to the timber and also one to the spring. This condition of affairs soon made the food question a serious one, as corn, the most needed product, was very hard to secure. H. B. Hatch finally started down the Wapsie with two yoke of oxen in search of corn. After going a score of miles he succeeded in getting some. Half way back home, however, he fell into another snow blizzard. What this meant in those days cannot be appreciated today. There were no paths; the snow drifted into unsurmountable heaps; there were no fences, absolutely nothing by which the lone traveler could distinguish directions. Creeping along gradually Hatch finally reached the settlement. Living was a hard duty for the next six weeks; the corn soon became unpalatable, and they made griddle cakes out of ground coffee, with an occasional treat of slippery elm. Clark and Kessler had seventeen deer and these were unable to get food, consequently many of them were found dead.

The rivalry between Bennett and Johnson was a topic of main interest at this time. Both had ambitions of starting a county seat town. Finally Bennett took measures to rid the County of Johnson. It was known among the Indians and whites that Bennett kept whiskey, which he was very free in giving to the Indians and men who called themselves his gang. He induced ten white men and five Indians to drink heavily one day and he formed them in a band to go to Johnson's house, taking a quantity of drink with them. They gained entrance to Johnson's home on pretense of being nearly frozen. Johnson, not knowing of their true intentions, was a good host and made them comfortable. When time came to go the Indians and Bennett's whites fell on Johnson, stripped him, tied him to a tree and gave him thirty-nine lashes on the bare back, with the warning that if he did not leave the country within twenty-four hours he would be treated even more severely. Johnson, with his daughter Kate, and his niece, left that night and fled down the river. They reached Clark's home twenty miles away and there Johnson's wounds were dressed. They traveled on and finally reached Marion. Two weeks later Johnson returned here, with the sheriff and a small posse of men. This force, however, was not sufficiently large to capture Bennett's gang and they escaped. Many perished on the way and others lost their feet and hands, but Bennett and a few others found safety. In January following Sheriff Taylor, with

Green and Thompson, pursued Bennett up the Turkey River, where they found him living with the Indians. He attempted resistance and by mistake killed an Indian, whereupon he again fled. His accomplices were all arrested and the last heard of Bennett he was in Potosi, Wisconsin, where he was running a whiskey tavern.

An old authority states that in the spring of 1843 there were the following habitations on lands: Sandford's, afterward the Cordell place, Ezra Allen's at the Spring; Clark and Brewer's; Frederick Kessler's; Spencer's; and during the spring Malcolm McBane and John Cordell came to the township. McBane, a Virginian, entered an eighty in what is now the Village of Quasqueton. He was a very public-spirited man and was a member of the second board of supervisors. Cordell was a native of Liverpool, England, and came to America when he was seventeen years of age. He entered a farm immediately on his arrival in Iowa.

During the autumn of the year 1843 James Biddinger came to the township from Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and deeded eighty acres of land. In this year also came Hugh Warren, who claimed land north of Quasqueton, also David Stiles and J. A. Reynolds. In the next year came Levi Billings and James Cummings. R. L. Thopson, a physician, settled in the township a short time later. Two years later Joseph Collier and Isaac and J. F. Hathaway located two miles east of Quasqueton and Samuel Caskey entered land nearby.

The first marriage in the township and said to be the first one in the county occurred in March, 1846, between Mary Ann Hathaway and Dr. E. Brewer, Joseph A. Reynolds, a justice of the peace from Delaware County, performing the ceremony. An interesting fact is disclosed by the account books of Dr. E. Brewer, a fact which proves the abundance of Indians in the locality at that time. His accounts show that he did business with the Magotoke, Petakema, Apalove, Apalue, Nolloosick, Wana and others of the former tribe, and against Coeapaboe, Chuchul, Wamanoo and others of the latter tribe of Indians.

The question of food in these times, of course, was the main consideration of the early days. These settlers endured countless hardships to procure provisions to last them but a few weeks. Hunting was good most of the year, but the difficulty entailed in going after the game made it almost as hazardous as traveling miles to get corn. Often the hunters would go in search of the young animals and bring them home alive, to be fattened for the next year. Buffalo and elk served this purpose most commonly.

#### POLITICAL

At the first precinct election in this township there were thirty votes cast, and at the second in 1849 there were the same number—ten democratic, fifteen republican, and five anti-slavery. The first township officers were: N. G. Gage, justice of the peace; Clark Burnett, Galin Shurtliff and J. P. Miller, constables; Morris Todd, assessor; A. Waldron, clerk; and H. B. Hatch, William Logan and H. M. Stephens, trustees.

#### QUASQUETON

The site of the present Town of Quasqueton was at one time the centering place of numerous Indian trails, due to the presence of a well known ford. The

name Quasqueton means "swift running water" and was originally called Quasquetuck. The transformation of the suffix is credited to S. V. Thompson.

The early settlement of this town is coincident with the early settlement of the township and in this way has been given on the preceding pages. William Bennett, the notorious, was the first man to settle here.

The site of Quasqueton, located as it is on the river, with the advantage of water travel and water power for the mills, and being well protected by valleys on every side, was a strong point in its favor in the eyes of the first comers. At the first temporary land sale held in Marion in the year 1843 the land of Quasqueton was not sold, although numerous bids were given. However, it soon came into the possession of William Hadden. Hadden kept the first store in the new village. In the year 1844 he had the frame of the mill enlarged and completed and installed a run of corn and wheat buhr-stones. Two years afterward D. S. Davis became a partner and the mill was again improved. These men, the same year, constructed a sawmill, which stood just below the grist mill. These additions were of great convenience, for prior to this all the milling was done at Cascade and Rockdale, Dubuque County.

The first postoffice in Quasqueton was established in 1845 with William Richards as postmaster. At this time D. S. Davis acquired the ownership of the greater part of the land on which the village was situated, and by the next year he had the greater part of the town regularly platted and laid out.

By the time the year 1852 came around the Town of Quasqueton had not grown appreciably. There were half a dozen houses on the east side of the river and on the west side there were perhaps one or two. A bridge was constructed across the river during this year; a turning and cabinet shop was put up on the west side by S. V. Thompson, the Hastings Block was erected by D. S. Davis and the mills, now owned by J. B. Hovey, were further improved. The Lewis brothers and J. M. Benthall tore down the old mill and built a larger one just below the sawmill.

In the year 1856 there was organized in Quasqueton a company known as the Quasqueton Mutual Protection Company, for the purpose of protecting the citizens from the horse thieves then in the vicinity and who had committed their depredations frequently. Any citizen could be a member of this association who would pay the sum of one dollar as a fee. Many of the prominent men of the community held membership in this organization and for several years they had plenty of work to do. For several years this continued and then the company was disbanded. The exact date of this is not known.

The bridge previously mentioned as being constructed in 1852 was destroyed by the high water of 1858. A second structure was put up and in 1865 it was carried away with the water, also the mills of the west side. These two bridges had been put up and paid for by private subscription. They located just below the dam. In 1867 a bridge was built by Buchanan County. The east span of this bridge was carried away by an ice floe in February, 1871. This was replaced during the next year by an iron span and in the following year the west span was torn away and replaced also.

The sawmill was torn away during the fall of 1878 and on the morning of January 1, 1881, the flour mills were consumed by flames.





METHODIST CHURCH, QUASQUETON



VIEW OF QUASQUETON



The early history of the Quasqueton schools is something of a mystery. It is known, however, that a school building was constructed in 1855 and this forms the base of the present building, which bears the date of 1898. In 1867 Quasqueton was made an independent district by election. S. W. Heath was the first president of the first board of directors. In 1869 a ward schoolhouse was erected two miles east of the town.

Before the name Quasqueton was given to the town, the name Quasquetuck was used as a title. Rapid City was another name of Quasqueton in the early days, also the name Trenton.

At one time there was a postoffice at Gatesville, but this was discontinued on March 31, 1902.

Phillip Bidinger, at present living in Quasqueton, is the oldest living white person born in the county.

#### GROWTH OF PRESENT CITY

For a town which has had as many misfortunes as old Quasqueton, this community has made good progress. Great commendation must be given to the people for their courageous battle to improve the town, a battle which at many times has been a losing one.

To begin with, in the year 1904, occurred the great fire which would have sent a weaker spirited town into oblivion. On Monday night, May 2, 1904, \$15,000 worth of property was destroyed by flames. The fire originated about 10 o'clock in the agricultural implement house occupied by Daniel Arnold, on the north side of Dubuque Street, and quickly swept everything in that block as far as Main Street. As the town had no means of combating the flames, they rushed unchecked through the frame store buildings. The people, one and all, formed bucket lines to the river and continued their efforts to the blocks fronting onto the burning one, thus managing to hold the destruction to a certain district. The men to suffer loss in this conflagration were: T. H. Kimball, Daniel Arnold, N. S. Dunlap, William Sherretts, J. M. Swartzell, William Spees, Editor Heath of the Quasquetonian, Harris and Walter, C. J. Dorsie, Earl Stoneman, O. D. Stapleton, H. A. Nelson, Mr. Bidinger, L. M. White, A. P. Burrihus, Jonathan Wilson and Allie Webber.

The next disaster was in 1910, when the dam over the Wapsie was crushed away by ice and water. The Plank brothers had kept the board dam in good condition and had succeeded in creating a park on the shores which was visited by people from all over the county, also used as a camping ground by numerous parties. This site was known as Riverside Park. The 1910 disaster, however, effectually destroyed the beauty of this location. Efforts have been made repeatedly to persuade someone to build the dam again, but so far have been unavailing. Plans were drawn about a year ago for a modern concrete dam, but this was never accomplished.

To turn from the bad to the good, it is well to speak of the prosperous bank which does business in the city. The State Savings Bank was organized on July 28, 1902 and opened its doors for business on December 2d of that year. The following men were the organizers: H. L. Boies, E. C. Kimball, T. H. Kimball, president, Charles B. Hubbard, vice president, L. V. Tabor, Z. Stout, R. B.

Raines, W. G. Stephenson, C. E. Boies, C. J. Walter, O. S. Rosenberger, R. M. Campbell, J. Neteott, A. H. Farwell, J. H. Willey, C. D. Jones, Jed Lake, J. F. Bidinger, cashier, W. D. Boies, F. T. Clark, J. E. Harris. The first capital stock was \$20,000. The present capital has increased to \$25,000, the surplus is \$7,000 and the deposits amount to over one hundred thousand dollars. The present officers are: L. T. Kimball, president; H. L. Boies, vice president; H. G. Clark, cashier. The building at present occupied by the bank was bought at the time of organization for \$5,000.

Perhaps one of the subjects of most interest to the people of Quasqueton and the county is the present Chicago, Anamosa and Northern Railroad, running from here to Anamosa, a distance of thirty-eight miles. It may be said that this line was completed in the year of our Lord 1912, after a period of twenty-eight years in the process of making. Surveys were made in 1858 for the Wapsipinicon Valley Railroad and the Wapsipinicon Valley Land Company issued scrip and tried to build the road. Two years previous, however, the Illinois Central had made surveys without doing much else in the way of getting a road completed. Surveys were then made in 1870-1-2 and a large amount of grading done for the Anamosa & Northwestern, but still Quasqueton did not procure a road for herself. In April, 1880, a tax was voted for the Chicago, Bellevue & Northern road and also, during the latter part of the year 1880, a survey was made for the Chicago & Manitoba road. Now Quasqueton has two trains a day, running on "sun" schedule. To undertake to tell of all of the surveys which were made, the subscription lists procured, the land donated, and the promises given, would fill a volume, for there was something new every year of the many years of preparation, and now that the road has rails down and the steam engines running, the town is not sure whether it feels elevated or not. One good feature, however, the road gives direct shipping connection with the Northwestern, so that goods billed to Chicago reach there on good time. This is the road's biggest asset. The company in the recent past, however, have entered the receiver's hands, so that it may not be long until old Quasque-on-the-Wapsie is again gunning for a new railroad line. The land for the right of way of this road was presented to the company, besides a substantial subscription list advanced.

The newspaper history of Quasqueton is a tale of much interest and filled with examples of stubborn courage. The first number of the Quasqueton Guardian was published on December 13, 1856, by Messrs. Rich and Jordan. Two years later this paper, although assisted materially by the citizens of the town, moved to Independence, flattered with the prospects of that town gaining railroad connection with the Eastern States. During a part of the years 1877 and 1878, a paper was published by A. B. Vines and was named The Peoples Paper. This paper failed to live long. On January 7, 1881, J. and W. S. Cauch issued the initial number of a sheet called The Weekly Telephone. This went the way of its predecessors. The present paper, The Quasquetonian, was started under the name of the Mercury by a man named Osborne. This was about the year 1890. This was sold to a Mr. Heath in 1902, and he conducted it under its present name until the fire of 1904, when he went out of business. In September of that same year Frank Vierth revived the Quasquetonian and has published it ever since as a weekly paper.

There are at present but three lodges in the city, the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Independence Order of Odd Fellows, and the Modern Brotherhood of America. The dispensation for the Masonic lodge was granted in 1875, but Quasqueton was then under the jurisdiction of another lodge and this original charter was made to a Cono Township order. In 1878, though, Quasqueton was given an independent lodge. The Odd Fellows lodge was organized in the town in 1854 as Prospect Lodge. The charter was subsequently changed and it is known as Franklin Lodge, No. 350. The Modern Brotherhood was organized in 1897. All of these orders have good membership.

Quasqueton was incorporated in May, 1902. The first meeting of the city council was held on the 28th of that month. The first officers were: C. B. Heath, mayor; M. I. Perry, treasurer; T. H. Kimball, A. T. Bidinger, A. D. Stoneman were councilman and the latter was also marshal. L. M. White was clerk. Following Heath as mayor, came T. H. Kimball in 1904, then A. P. Burrhus in 1909, then Kimball again in 1911. The latter resigned his office in March, 1914, and H. D. Boies was appointed to fill the vacancy, but he in turn resigned in August. J. D. Steele was asked to fill the chair, but refused, so A. P. Burrhus took up the reins and is now active.

The city came into possession of their own electric light plant on December 14, 1912, after an election on the question.

#### RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES

It is said that the first religious meetings held in Quasqueton were Presbyterian. No services were held, however, until the coming of a Wesleyan Methodist preacher named G. G. Cummings. Then a Methodist denominational society was formed, but soon died out. This society was again revived and at present has a church at Newtonville.

At an early day there was a Presbyterian Church formed by Rev. Joseph Whitam and called the Free Presbyterian Church. The main supporter of this society was John Merrill, who deeded them two acres of land and helped materially to build a structure in which to hold services. This is now known as Hickory Church and is located about two miles north of Quasqueton. There is a membership of about fifty.

On June 26, 1853, the Congregational Church was organized by Revs. Alfred Wright and W. Reed. At first the services were held in the schoolhouse, but in 1854 a brick church was constructed. The church has been uniformly prosperous since this time and now has a membership of about seventy-five. The church building has been remodeled several times and is again to be rebuilt and enlarged. The pastors from the first have been: Revs. Alfred Wright, Bennett Roberts, H. N. Gates, Albert Maunson, G. H. Bissel, Charles Dame, E. G. Carpenter, G. N. Dorsey, W. S. Potwin, G. M. Obers, Philo Gordon, A. J. Benton, Salter, Slyfield, Mumley, Thum, Landhoam, and Basham, the present pastor. It was during the pastorate of Salter that the church was practically rebuilt. Reverend Basham has made plans for the new church, which will make it one of the best in the township.

There is also a Congregational Church at Castleville, organized in 1891, and now has a membership of thirty-five.

The Newtonville Congregational Church was moved to Kiene on June 28, 1914, and a \$1,700 church erected. Reverend Basham attends the fifty members here.

The Baptist Church was organized March 10, 1855, by the following: A. G. Firman, E. A. Miltimore, D. Leatherman, Permelia Leatherman, J. D. Reese, H. G. Hastings, E. W. Hastings, and J. W. Gagely. William Ramsey and A. G. Hastings were the first deacons and Daniel Rowley the first pastor. The first meetings were held in the Davis Block and afterward in the second story of the schoolhouse, in the brick Congregational Church and in the Methodist Church. The Baptist Church was first occupied in January, 1868. This church has many years of prosperity, but in the last year has become inactive. Occasional meetings are held, but no attempt is made to have them regular. H. Bellman is the present pastor, living in Quasqueton. His health is very poor and he is unable to assume active charge of the work.

Perhaps the strongest society in the township today is the Methodist Episcopal. The society was organized in 1852 by William H. Brown. The territory was then embraced in a mission extending from Anamosa to Greeley's Grove, now Hazleton, Pine Creek being one of the appointments of that day. The first class was composed of William and Elizabeth Cooper and Harry Norton. They worshiped in the west wing of the schoolhouse at first. William Shippen was the next pastor. The church in Quasqueton was built in 1855, under Reverend Ashbough. Hiram Hood came next and then W. Bailey. At this time Spring Grove was discontinued and given over to the "Campbellites and other vultures." In 1862 Norton Church was instituted in Homer Township. The pastors from this time until the present are, in the order of their service: John Fawcett, George Raines, A. M. Smith, Shaper, H. C. Brown, W. S. R. Burnett, W. O. Glassner, L. S. Keagle, Jacob Hurl, N. Jones, W. B. Davis, R. Norton, G. L. Garrison, Samuel Goodsell, John Brentnall, J. B. Metcalf, G. B. Crinklan, E. B. Downs, A. B. Curran, Jesse Smith, A. B. Fickle, A. D. Foster, F. T. Heatly, T. E. Temple, Charles H. Hawn, A. C. Brackett, P. M. Phillips, William M. Densmore and George F. Kelley, the present pastor. This church and the Rowley congregation are under the same organization, having together about two hundred members. Both are in the Quasqueton circuit. The Rowley church was remodeled about a year ago.

#### MADISON TOWNSHIP

Madison Township was organized on March 11, 1857, by order of County Judge Roszell. The first election in the township was held at the house of Charles Richmond, on April 6th of the same year, and the following township officers were elected: John Marsell, Silas Ross and A. D. Bradley, trustees; Charles Bennett and J. B. Ward, justices; Seth Paxon and S. M. Eddy, constables; D. M. Brown, clerk.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT

The first settlement was made by Seymour Whitney in the fall of 1852, in the east part of the township near the present city of Lamont. He remained

here for about fifteen years, then went to Missouri. He was the first clerk of the township.

J. B. Ward settled in the township in the fall of 1853, in the eastern part. He entered some land for himself and opened his farm. He also started the first sawmill in the township and later had two mills in his possession.

On March 28, 1853, Silas Ross settled here. He was a native of Vermont.

Mark Whitney settled in 1853. He assisted in forming the first Free Will Baptist Society here. Alden Whitney settled here in February, 1854, on section 24, entering the land he selected. He filled the offices of county supervisor, township trustee and magistrate, being one of the first in the latter office.

E. R. Jenks became a settler in the township in June, 1853. He came to the county in 1851 and had lived for a time with A. J. Eddy in Buffalo Township. He finally became the owner of about five hundred acres of land in this township.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

In the summer of 1853, Silas Ross, Mark Whitney and J. B. Ward built a log schoolhouse and during the following winter Mrs. Getty Riley taught a school here with about thirty students. The next schoolhouse was constructed at Ward's Corners, now Lamont, and the next at Buffalo Grove. Among the early teachers were Lucy Ticknor, Jane Bennett, Melusia Davies and Julia Whitney.

#### CHURCHES

The Free Will Baptist Society was organized in this township on June 27, 1857, with seven members, namely: Peter Halleck and wife, Mark Whitney, Cyrus Bailey and wife, and N. R. Whitney and wife. The first meetings of the society were conducted at the home of Cyrus Bailey. The first preacher was Rev. S. Hutchinson. Some time after the church was organized the members divided and a number living near Buffalo Grove formed an organization there. These two societies have now been reunited at Lamont and own a substantial church building, having a membership of eighty people, and a regular pastor.

The old school Baptists organized in this township some time later. There were ten members at first, namely: John Merrill and wife, J. B. Ward and wife, Charles Richmond and wife, Amanda Braman and Orrin Ross. The first preacher was Rev. George Scott. For the first six years of their existence they held services in the log schoolhouse. In 1871 they constructed a frame house of worship, also a parsonage. This society has not been active for about eight years. The reunion of the Baptist societies has resulted in the reorganization under the Free Will denomination.

The Lutheran Church at Lamont was organized about the year 1898 and in 1900 a church and parsonage were built, costing about four thousand dollars. The church was dedicated on April 2d of that year. The membership now totals seventy-five.

The first cemetery was established at Buffalo Grove, in the southwest part of the township, in about 1857. A second one was located at Ward's Corners,

now Lamont, in the next year. A third was established in the northeast corner of the township.

A feed mill was constructed here in 1856, by Whitney and Ward, on the Maquoketa. At the same time a sawmill was built, but it did not prove a paying investment. In 1881 a second mill was built near the site of the old one.

The first white child born in the township was Hiram Whitney, a son of the first pioneer, in 1854.

The first death was that of David Cornell, in 1854.

The pioneer blacksmith was John W. Dana, in 1857, his shop being about a half mile east of the then Ward's Corners.

Silas Ross raised the first crop of wheat in 1854.

The first store was kept by Rev. W. Durfey at Ward's Corners.

No hotel was operated in the township until 1880, when Alfred Bush started a tavern.

#### CITY OF LAMONT

The City of Lamont is located in the eastern part of Madison Township. The building of the Chicago Great Western Railroad through the township in 1886 insured the growth of the then village into the prosperous town as at present.

Prior to the building of the railroad Lamont was indeed a small village. Seymour Whitney deeded the land where the village stood and built the first house on the spot where Mr. Retz now lives. There was a postoffice established in 1875 and called Erie. Mr. Ward was appointed postmaster and he immediately had the name changed to Ward's Corners in honor of himself. The next change in name occurred when G. M. Foster became postmaster in 1883. Some authorities claim that the railroad changed the name to Lamont, but the wiser ones concede the act to Mr. Foster. The mail in the early day was carried by a line running from Independence to Strawberry Point, and later from Forrestville.

Albert Bush was the first hotel keeper in the town. Charles Richmond ran the first blacksmith shop. The first important step after the beginning of the village was the building of the Baptist church in 1867, just back of the present Redmond store. It was later moved across the creek to its present location. The first store building was constructed by Willis Durfey in 1872. In the next year a creamery was built, a fine two-story building, by John Stewart. The upper floor was used as a town hall. Mr. Quick put up the next store building and Whitney Bush had the third. There were ten or twelve store buildings and an equal number of residences when the railroad came through in 1886. There were three fairs, or rather barbecues, held in the early days, but the practice has become lost.

The first and best things in the sketch of Lamont are the banks which do business there. Both are among the most substantial in the county. The Farmers Savings Bank was organized on March 3, 1910. The first officers were: D. J. Kenna, W. C. Falck, and M. J. Nolan. The directors were: J. H. Brown, Frank Dozark, Thomas Vanek, A. K. Anderson, Fred Retz, and A. L. Seeber. The capital stock of this institution is \$15,000, the surplus \$1,000 and the deposits amount to \$100,000. W. C. Falck is the president now; Fred Retz, vice-president;





HIGH SCHOOL, LAMONT



STREET SCENE IN LAMONT



and O. C. Gladwin, cashier. The Lamont Savings Bank was incorporated on April 4, 1892. The first officers were: A. R. Loomis, president; M. F. LeRoy, cashier; A. R. Loomis, E. S. Cowles, M. F. LeRoy, E. H. Hoyt, and E. M. Carr, directors. The first capital stock was \$10,000, which was raised to \$15,000 in August, 1899. The present officers are: John Elliott, president; A. A. Smith, vice-president; C. E. Hayes, cashier; and H. M. Fitch, assistant cashier. The capital stock is \$25,000; undivided profits, \$7,000; and deposits amount close to \$250,000. The directors now are: John Elliott, C. R. Jenks, Henry Allenstein, Henry Sharff, A. A. Smith, Thomas Kelsh, James Carr, John Kash, and C. E. Hayes. Prior to the existence of these two banks there was a private bank known as the Bank of Lamont, run by Oscar Tuttle. This institution went out of existence. More detailed sketches of these banks may be found in the second volume of this work.

The newspaper history of Lamont has just begun practically. The first issue of the Lamont Reporter was published on May 17, 1893, by E. D. Alexander. The paper was a weekly, run every Wednesday. In 1900 J. F. Davidson came into control of the paper and changed its name to the Lamont Leader. This is also a weekly paper.

The City of Lamont was surveyed in April, 1886, by P. H. Warner and the plat was filed for record December 14th of that year. A petition was presented to the court on October 4, 1892, by William Quick and others, asking that the town be permitted to hold an election for incorporation. This was granted and on November 22, 1892, the people voted to incorporate the town.

The water plant of the city was procured in 1908 and was the first public utility. It was built by public subscription and cost about \$5,000.

The lodges in Lamont are very numerous for the size of town, but are all strong. There is a lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen, Woodmen of the World, and Mystic Toilers. All of these orders have the ladies' auxiliary. A number of clubs are maintained among the women also, the principal one being the Tourist Club, for the study of literature.

The main industry of the city is the Lamont Cooperative Creamery, established in 1898.

The school building in Lamont is a structure about ten years old, and is convenient and adapted to the latest style of school architecture. An efficient corps of teachers is maintained here every year.

## MIDDLEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Middlefield Township was regularly organized and set off as a separate township on September 21, 1858. Following is the order of the county court:

“Be it known, that on this twenty-first day of September, 1858, on petition of Philetus Mackey and Albert Risley and others, a new township in said county is hereby constituted and formed, consisted of the thirty-six sections of congressional township 88, range 7, and in accordance with the wishes of the inhabitants thereof, it is ordered to be styled Middlefield. Signed, Stephen J. W. Tabor, county judge.”

The first election was held at one of the schoolhouses in the fall of 1858 and the following officers were elected: G. Smith, R. Stoneman and M. Broadstreet, trustees; Daniel Leatherman, assessor and constable.

#### SETTLEMENT

The first settler in Middlefield was Patrick M. Dunn. He located in the southeast part of the township on April 2, 1850. His location was in the center of a heavy mass of timber, on the banks of Buffalo Creek. He was a native of Kings County, Ireland, having been born there in the first year of the nineteenth century. His companions in the forest when he settled here were mostly Indians and wild game. Food was the big question with him, as with hundreds of other pioneers, and he often traveled two weeks continuously to Quasqueton after meal with which to make bread for his family.

Daniel Leatherman and his family were the next to settle in this township. They came June 2, 1854, and settled on the prairie, living in their covered wagons until a home was built. A few acres were broken this year and a little sod corn raised, also a patch of watermelons. This was the only house built out on the prairie and probably the first frame structure in the township. The stage road from Dubuque by way of Coffins Grove to Quasqueton passed by their house, and this was the only house on the line, a distance of twenty-three miles. At night a light was placed in the east window of the upstairs of the house, so that travelers from Coffins Grove might be guided. It is said that when Leatherman first came to the township he put in most of his time teaming between Dubuque and Quasqueton, a distance of seventy miles. Most of the lumber with which he built his house was drawn from the Town of Dubuque. Leatherman was one of the first magistrates of the township.

R. Stoneman settled in the township in 1855 and was Leatherman's first neighbor. He lived here about ten years and then went to Kansas.

George Smith was another pioneer who came about the same time as Leatherman. He also removed to Kansas after the death of his wife, eight years after his coming. He was a Wesleyan minister and held the first religious services in the settlement.

William Broadstreet became a settler of the township in 1854, not far from Leatherman's place. He afterward removed to Liberty Township.

A Mr. McWilliams settled in the township in June, 1854, coming from the State of Ohio. He lived here until 1865, when he moved to the southern part of the state. His son Henry was killed in the same battle in the Civil war in which Leatherman's son met his death.

Stillman Berry came to the state in May, 1855, and settled first at Quasqueton, but in the same year bought land in Middlefield Township. He was a native of Maine.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

A cemetery company was organized here about 1874. The grounds had been used previously for the burying of the dead, but the association was not formed until the above year.

A postoffice was established here in about 1872 and L. P. Stitson was the first postmaster. The office was called Middlefield.

The birth of Edward L. Leatherman on April 4, 1855, was the first in the township.

The first wedding was that of Willard S. Blair and Permelia Ann Leatherman on June 24, 1855.

The first religious services ever held in the township were by Rev. G. Smith in 1855, in the schoolhouse which had just been built.

The first crop raised in the township consisted of turnips, raised by Patrick M. Dunn, also a little sod corn and a few potatoes. Dunn also raised the first wheat in 1851.

The first school taught in the township was in a house which Leatherman and several others had constructed, and the first teacher was Malinda Gageby, later Mrs. Samuel Braden. The house was paid for by subscriptions, and in this same way the teacher received her remuneration. Henry Blank, A. Scott, R. Stoneman and Nancy Merrill also taught in the early schools of this township. The second schoolhouse was built near Stillman Berry's place, in about the center of the township.

The first entry of land in Middlefield Township was made by Patrick Dunn.

## NEWTON TOWNSHIP

Newton Township was organized by the following order on July 20, 1854: "It is ordered by the court that township 87, north, range 7 west, in this county, be and is hereby set apart as a new township, to be called Newton Township. This order to take effect on the third Monday in July next and not sooner. Signed, O. H. P. Roszell, County Judge."

The first election was held the first Monday in August, 1854, at one of the schoolhouses in the south part of the township. Andrew Whisenand, Charles Hoover and Nathan Holman were appointed by the court as judges of election. The following township officers were elected: Charles Hoover and Reuben C. Walton, justices; Jesse McPike, Andrew Whisenand and Charles Hoover, trustees; Charles McPike, assessor; Amos Long, clerk; and Green Berry, constable.

## SETTLEMENT

The first permanent settler in the township was Joseph Austin. In the spring of 1845 he built a cabin in the vicinity of a good spring at the timber edge. Austin lived here until 1853, when he moved to Cono Township. He fought for the Union in the '60s.

Reuben C. Walton was the next to settle here in the spring of 1847, on section 33, in the south part, near Austin's home. A spring which flowed near to his home was afterwards known as the Walton Spring. Walton was one of the first magistrates of the township and is said to have performed the first marriage ceremony.

W. H. Harris and W. Ogden, with their families, settled here in 1851 near the Austin place. These men remained only about two years.

Charles Hoover first came to the state in April, 1851, and stayed for a short time at Quasqueton. He then came to this township. His nearest neighbor lived at a distance of four miles from his home. Hoover was noted as a deer hunter, bagging fifty-seven in fourteen months.

Martin C. Glass settled in Newton in the year 1849 and bought out the interests of Austin, the first settler. He lived in this township for three years, then moved into Cono.

Jesse McPike settled here on April 28, 1853. He also bought the Austin place, with its noted spring, and here remained until his death on August 25, 1875.

Henry M. Holman came here in 1851, settling first in Cedar County.

Andrew Whisenand settled here in 1851 on the property later owned by Reuben C. Walton. He was one of the organizers of the township and was one of the first judges of election. He was also a township trustee and one of the pioneer Methodists.

#### RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES

The first religious meetings held in the township were by the Methodists, at the house of Reuben C. Walton, about the year 1853. Samuel Farlow was the preacher. Services were held at the house of Jesse McPike also.

The Christian Church was organized here in 1853 with some fifteen members, among whom were H. N. Holman and wife, S. Payton and wife, P. Payton and wife, William and Thomas McKee, and Nathan McConnell.

These two churches have since passed out of existence in this township.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church was first organized in 1856. Services were first held in a log schoolhouse, but in 1870 a large church structure was put up and also a pastoral residence. These are at Monti. Among the priests have been Fathers Slattery, Shields, Ghosker, Malone and Clabby. The church now numbers about sixty families and is the only church at Monti.

The Protestant Methodist Society was organized here in 1858 at the Hoover schoolhouse with about twenty members. The church is now in good condition at Newtonville and has about sixty-five members.

#### FIRST SCHOOLS

The first schools of the township were maintained by popular subscriptions. The very first school was held in 1848 in the south part of the township, near the place of the first settlement, and was taught by Ned Bartly. He had ten scholars in his first class. Mr. Harris shortly afterwards donated the use of a loghouse for the school. In 1850 Reuben C. Walton and several other men got together and built a log schoolhouse in which classes were held for a number of winters. Samuel Calvin, later a professor in Iowa University, taught the first school in this house. A few years later the district built a good house on this old site. There was also a house built in the eastern part of the township. Besides the early teachers above mentioned there were Mrs. Geiger, Charles McPike, A. Henry, George Francis and Charles Moore.



ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, MONTI





## MISCELLANEOUS

The first death in the township was that of a daughter of James Brown, and granddaughter of Jesse McPike, in September, 1853.

Leonard Austin was the first white child born here, his birth occurring in the winter of 1847.

The first wheat in the township was raised by Joseph Austin in the year 1846.

The first wedding was that of Isaae Arwin and Jane Holman in 1855. Charles McPike was wedded to Jane Ramsey about the same time. Reuben C. Walton conducted both of these ceremonies.

The first store in the township was kept by J. S. Long in the south part of the township on H. M. Holman's farm.

A postoffice was established here and named Newton Centre in the summer of 1855, in the south part of the township, near where the first settlements were made. The first postmaster here was Ulysses Geiger, and after him were R. C. Walton, Turner Cartright and R. Downs. In 1873 the office was transferred to the center of the township and Samuel Hoover was appointed postmaster. This office is now at Newtonville.

A cemetery was established in the south part of the township in 1853. Jesse McPike donated the land. The first burial here was Mrs. Long. Charles Hoover had a private burying-ground near his home in the early days. In 1880 there was a cemetery association formed with James Ironsides as president, W. King, treasurer, and Samuel Hoover, secretary. A cemetery was established near the Catholic church in the east part of the township in 1856 and this is now known as the Catholic Cemetery of St. Patriek's.

The old postoffice at Newton Centre was afterward called Newtonville, but has been abolished. The Village of Newtonville has been seriously handicapped by the lack of transportation facilities, and consequently has never reached a stage of development. There are one or two lodges there and one church, the Wesleyan Methodist, described elsewhere in this volume.

The same might be said of Monti. There is one church there, the Roman Catholic, presided over by Father Donaghey. This society was organized in this vicinity about twenty-five years ago, but was never very active until ten years later. In the late '90s a church building was erected, the interior being one of the finest in the county. A parsonage was also erected for the pastor.

Neither of these towns have a postoffice at present, but are supplied by rural free delivery.

## PERRY TOWNSHIP

Perry Township was organized as an independent township on February 17, 1853, by order of the county judge. This order follows:

"Ordered by the County Court, that townships 89 and 90 of range 10, Buchanan County, and also the west tier of sections in township 90, range 9, and sections 6 and 7 and west half of sections 18, 89, 9, be, and the same are hereby, separated from Washington Precinct in the same county, and shall, until further orders, form a separate preeinct, to be called Perry Preeinct; and all orders, so far as they conflict with the above order, are hereby revoked."

Several changes have since been made in the township. Township 89, 10, was set off by itself March 5, 1855, under the name of Alton, now Fairbank; and the west tier of sections in 90, 9 was attached to Superior, now Hazleton. Subsequently, the part belonging to 89, 9 was severed, leaving a square township of thirty-six sections.

The first election was held at the home of John Cameron, on April 4, 1853. Henry Bright and W. S. Clark were elected as justices of the peace; Charles Melrose, Gamaliel Walker and John H. Anderson, trustees; and W. S. Clark, clerk.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT

The first settler in the township is said to have been Charles Melrose, a Scotchman, who came from Fort Wayne, Indiana, with his family, in June, 1849. He entered land, but some error was made in his entry and found that he had claimed land near Jesup. He did not think that land in that locality would ever be valuable, so he procured the aid of Senator G. W. Jones and a special act of Congress was passed, by the terms of which he vacated his entry and placed it in the section he had originally intended.

During the same year that Melrose came, Gamaliel Walker settled in the northwest part of the township, near Littleton. He was undoubtedly the second settler in the township, if Melrose was the first. James Minton came with Walker and continued to live with him until his marriage, which happened soon after his arrival. He then moved to Fairbank, where he stayed for a number of years. He later went to the State of Kansas.

John Cameron settled in the northeast part of the township, in September, 1850. He came from the State of Indiana. Six daughters came here with him. Mr. Cameron became a very prominent citizen in the township and county. He assisted in the organization of two Methodist Episcopal churches, filled the office of county supervisor for two years, and was a member of the Masonic order. He was a farmer by trade. The first religious services ever held in the township were conducted at his house.

Martin Depoy and family came to the township in 1850. He had entered his land here the previous year. He was a Virginian, but went to Ohio when six years of age and while there married a sister of John Cameron. He then resided for several years in Indiana, finally coming to Iowa and living at Jesup, where he conducted a grocery.

H. S. Bright settled near Littleton in 1850. Jacob Slaughter was another early settler in this district. James Shrack came to the township in 1851, accompanied by his family, and settled in the northwestern part of the township. He was noted as an expert hunter and trapper.

The life of the early comers to this township differed very little from that of the men in the other townships. The mill at Quasqueton, twenty-five miles distant, was the only one within reaching distance. The first store of any kind was kept by Sufficool & Marshall in 1856, at the present town of Littleton. Sufficool afterward sold out his interest to John Cameron. The colony in this vicinity once made up a purse between them and dispatched John Cameron to Dubuque for groceries. Upon this trip it is said that Mr. Cameron brought the first plow to the township.



Methodist Church  
Baptist Church

Catholic Church  
Presbyterian Church

High School

HIGH SCHOOL AND CHURCHES OF JESUP



The first hotel was owned and operated in Littleton, by B. C. Hale, and the second one was a mile north of Jesup, kept by Mr. Boardman on the state road. The early doctors were McGonigal, Allen and James Muncey. The first postmaster was Charles Melrose and John Cameron was the first mail carrier. It is said that the first mail consisted of three letters. The first wedding in the township was held at the house of John Cameron in 1852, and the principals were Martin Campbell and Emeline Cameron. Squire W. S. Clark performed the ceremony. A daughter of Isaac Spencer was the first white person to die in the township. The birth of Nancy Melrose on April 1, 1850, was the first in the township. The first bridge constructed in the township was across the Wapsie at Littleton. It was built of wood. The first wheat raised in the township was grown by John Cameron, Martin Depoy, Gamaliel Walker, Jacob Slaughter and Charles Melrose. These men cooperated in raising this first crop. They cut the crop with cradles and sent to Clayton County for a machine to thresh it. J. R. Jones put up the first grain elevator in the township. The first school class was taught in Jesup, at the house of R. S. Searls. William Boss was the first depot agent.

## JESUP

The beginning of the town of Jesup may rightly be said to have occurred with the building of the Illinois Central Railroad through this territory in the year 1860. The small village of Barclay, located in Black Hawk County to the west, was relocated at Jesup at this time.

The first store in the town of Jesup was kept by R. S. Searls and this gentleman also did duty as the postmaster. He also is said to have shipped the first earload of stock from the town. The first blacksmith was A. Grattan. A Mr. Marvin probably kept the first hotel: he located before the railroad was put through.

The history of Jesup has been an interesting one. The town has, with the exception of Independence, grown more rapidly than the others in the county, due in no small part to its excellent location on the railroad and the close proximity to Independence and Waterloo, Black Hawk County, alike. This town is equally as good a shipping point as the county seat and the amount of trade conducted through it is larger in proportion.

Of the earlier history of Jesup there are just a few points which stand out. It is true that in the '80s and '90s there was a company of militia in existence here. It was Company I of the First Iowa National Guard. The company was organized February 17, 1877, with F. C. Merrill, captain; H. J. Wolfe, first lieutenant; and C. C. Smith, second lieutenant. The company was composed of about sixty volunteers.

A shirt factory also existed in Jesup in the spring of 1880, owned by R. and H. Cook.

The town of Jesup was incorporated as a city on March 8, 1876. The first officers were: John Anderson, mayor; G. E. Marsh, recorder; H. M. Grayton, G. O. Marsh, Murat Sayles, E. Parker and I. A. Stoddard, trustees. Following Anderson as mayor came the following: H. M. Crayton, C. Hoyt, James Dalton, I. C. Underwood, James Dalton, R. L. Bordner, C. L. Bright, R. L.

Bordner, and B. F. Stoddard is the present incumbent. The other officers at present are: C. M. Bright, treasurer; Monroe H. Houser, clerk; S. C. Walker, H. B. Ham, F. H. Lummacker, C. B. Ganiere and H. J. Werling, councilmen.

In the election of March, 1881, the people voted to abolish saloons in the town and this decision has never been changed.

The water supply of the city was first established as a public utility in 1903. The water was at first pumped from wells by air pressure, but in August, 1911, this plant blew up. The city then constructed a tank tower, from which their water pressure is now obtained. The electric light plant of the city is owned by private individuals, Young and Frush. The plant was put in during the summer of 1913 and now is devoted to street lighting almost exclusively. Gasoline gas is used more in the residences.

The Jesup State Bank was organized October 11, 1901, and all stock was subscribed and paid in by November 30th of that year. The capital stock was \$25,000. The first board of directors was composed of Ed Mullaney, J. H. Carey, John T. Burrell, Z. A. Comfort, C. L. Bright and M. R. Considine. J. H. Carey was the first president, Comfort the vice president, Bright the cashier. J. H. Carey passed to his death in September, 1905, and was succeeded by Z. A. Comfort. John T. Burrell died in December, 1913, and was succeeded by M. R. Considine. The bank opened for business on January 28, 1902. Monroe H. Houser was employed as assistant cashier in November, 1905, and in January, 1913. C. R. Miller was employed as second assistant cashier. In 1912 the bank building was enlarged to suit the needs of the institution. The capital stock is the same now as at the beginning, the surplus is \$18,000 and the deposits amount to \$240,000.

The Farmers Bank of Jesup, of which the Farmers State Bank is the successor, was organized in 1879 as a private bank. Thomas Taylor was president; J. A. Laird, vice president; and George S. Murphy, cashier. On December 30, 1882, the affairs of the Farmers Bank of Jesup were cleared up and on the same date the First National Bank of Jesup, with \$50,000 capital was organized by the former owners of the Farmers Bank. The officers of the National Bank were the same. On April 15, 1886, the shareholders of the First National voted unanimously to go into voluntary liquidation and very soon thereafter the affairs of the bank were closed up, all indebtedness being paid. On April 15, 1886, the principal owners of the National Bank again engaged in the banking business under the name of Farmers Bank, a copartnership, with the same officers as those of the old First National. The Farmers Bank continued the banking business in Jesup until June 24, 1903, when it was succeeded by the Farmers State Bank, a corporation with \$25,000 capital, organized under the laws of Iowa. Thomas Taylor was president of the Farmers Bank until it dissolved and J. A. Laird and Isaac Neely were the vice presidents. James Dalton was cashier from December, 1888, until 1903. James Dalton was elected president and L. S. Hovey, vice president. M. E. Dalton and A. M. Dalton were at subsequent dates elected cashier. In 1910, W. W. Blasler, the present cashier, was elected. L. S. Hovey, the vice president, died late in the year 1913 and M. G. Young was elected vice president to succeed him. James Dalton was elected president of the Farmers State Bank in 1903 and has held this position until the present time.

Another interesting topic in Jesup is the newspapers. There have been many, so many in fact that they are confusing. The first newspaper in the town was the Jesup Reorder. This was started in the spring of 1869 by Cole and Shinner and continued for about a year, when it was removed to Earlville. In about 1874, W. H. Hutton started another sheet called the Jesup Vindicator, which, in the spring of 1879, he moved to Independence and changed the name to the Buchanan County Messenger. This paper shortly died. George E. Roberts, now prominently connected with the treasury department of the United States, owned the Vindicator one year before he sold to Hutton. On October 10, 1879, A. H. Farwell established the Buchanan County Journal, which he conducted for several years, in 1881 moving the plant to Independence and joining the Bulletin, of that place.

Perhaps no paper in the country had quite so checkered a career as the sheet which started in the '80s under the name of the Jesup Times. It was begun by C. E. Phifer, who sold it to Carver and Losey, then Fred Cornish bought, and he sold Fred Kimball, who changed the name to The Critic, then Grout bought, then to Frank Vierth, then to Hutton, then to W. H. Haines, then to L. W. Smith, then the paper was closed out at sheriff's sale. Phifer and Dickinson then came into possession of the paper and they sold to Dickinson and Moore, then came Rudolph and D. W. Harmon, and then Harmon sold his interest to Mr. Stark. Stark was running the ill-fated paper in November, 1899, when Mr. F. R. Place started the Citizens Herald. Stark called his paper the Critic. It lasted two years more after the establishment of the Herald, then sunk into the depths. Mr. Place subsequently changed the name of his paper to the Jesup News and has run the paper very successfully ever since, publishing on Thursday of each week. The business conducted by the publisher is known as the Place Printing Company.

Perry Lodge No. 158, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized at Jesup on January 21, 1868, with five charter members, namely: F. C. Merrill, Charles A. Wattles, Jonathan Richmond, R. S. Smith, and G. Harding. The lodge was instituted by Sanford Wells, assisted by members from the Waterloo lodge. Eleven people were initiated on the first night. The first officers were: H. C. Merrill, noble grand; Charles Wattles, vice grand; S. W. Kenyon, secretary; R. L. Smith, treasurer; E. B. Cook, permanent secretary. This lodge is still in flourishing condition and has about one hundred and sixty members. There is also a lodge of Rebekahs in the city.

Parkersburgh Encampment No. 62 was organized at Parkersburgh, Butler County, October 2, 1873. In the spring of 1880, having obtained a dispensation from the chief patriarch, it was removed to Jesup.

The Ancient Free and Accepted Masons came into existence in Jesup in 1866. Among the early members were: J. M. Hovey, J. N. Hovey, R. O. Laird, R. F. Williams, J. R. Jones, A. N. George, C. M. Newton, W. R. Harding, C. H. Kenyon, A. Strong, and R. S. Searls. The membership is now 150.

There is also now a lodge of Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America, Modern Brotherhood of America, Mystic Toilers, and the Yeomen here. All have the ladies' auxiliary.

John A. Davis Post, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized at Jesup in August, 1881, and named after Colonel Davis of the Seventy-sixth Illinois

Infantry. The first members of this post were: C. C. Smith, C. W. Baldwin, T. J. Shane, J. J. Randall, H. Bordener, M. Cone, H. S. Rich, J. A. Ross, A. F. Tunks, J. Elliott, D. Clubine, D. Casnar, W. H. Dobell, W. Mosher, G. B. Thayer, and H. P. Rice.

#### LITTLETON

The year 1856 was the first year of the existence of this village. This year ushered in a store, hotel, blacksmith shop, saw and grist mill. Mention has been made of these features in the early settlement description of the township. At one time early in her career Littleton was known by the name Chatham.

Littleton was on the boom in 1864—their weekly package of mail contained some two hundred and seventy-five papers, and new business concerns were opening up. The mill property had passed exclusively into the hands of H. J. White & Stout and they proposed immediately to improve the mill and to carry on an extensive business in sawing and grinding. Pleasant Grove Seminary was situated in the suburbs of Littleton, under the proficient management of Professor Caldwell, and it was predicted in the paper that Littleton was destined to be a star of the first magnitude in the galaxy of cities in the great Northwest.

Littleton seemed to have possessed the first threshing machine or the first one receiving public notice. It was owned by E. B. Cook and G. Hovey of Perry Township. In 1864 Charles Reynolds was appointed as postmaster to fill the vacancy occasioned by Martha Mosher having resigned. In 1910 the post-office was discontinued and Littleton is now served by two rural routes, one from Jesup and one from Independence.

The growth of Littleton has been directly contrary to the great plans made in the early days. There is a very substantial class of people living in the village and vicinity, but the town as a town has not much of which to boast. Littleton and Otterville are very similar. Mention of the churches is made in the history of the township churches.

A Methodist Episcopal society was organized in Perry Township at the home of John Cameron in 1853. There were five members, John Cameron, Rachel Cameron, Thomas T. and Elizabeth Cameron and Lucinda Anderson. The first man to preach to this small congregation was Reverend Ashcouch. After a few years the church was transferred to Littleton, where the church exists at the present time.

A Methodist society was organized at Jesup in 1860 and held their first services in a hall and in a convenient schoolhouse. In the year 1869 they constructed a frame house of worship, valued at \$4,000, and later a commodious parsonage was built. The early members of the Jesup church were: John Cameron and wife, John Cooper, Fannie Cooper, R. L. Smith and wife, Bertha Smith, Charles Campbell, and Nancy Campbell. Among some of the early pastors to this society were: J. Hankins, Moore, Thomas, Eberhart, Myers, Hardy, Castor, Brennan, Gedwick. Reverend Elwick is the present pastor. A house of worship was constructed in 1900 and also a parsonage. The congregation numbers about one hundred and seventy-five.

The Baptist society in Jesup was organized in September, 1866. Their first services were held in Fuller's Hall and afterward, for the purpose of larger





METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,  
LITTLETON



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LITTLETON



FORKS OF BIG AND LITTLE WAPSIPINICON RIVERS, LITTLETON



quarters, moved to the public schoolhouse. John Fullerton is accredited as being the first preacher for this society. The composition of this society was made up of part of the Barclay church, which had disbanded, and the Jesup people of the faith. A splendid house of worship was dedicated on February 19, 1871. Among the earlier members of the church were: Mr. Abbott and wife, Jacob Wolfe and wife, William Smith and wife, Mrs. E. Parker, and T. S. Stone and wife. The church is now in charge of Reverend Eastman and the congregation numbers 150 people. The church building has been remodeled several times and a parsonage built.

The first Presbyterian society in Jesup was organized June 4, 1853, in the northeast part of the township and was named the Pleasant Grove church. James S. Fullerton was the first preacher. The first members of this church were: Alexander Stevenson and wife, Robert Wroten and wife, Martin Depoy and wife, and Mrs. Susan Slaughter. This society was transferred to Littleton in the fall of 1856, at a time when there were but twelve members. Rev. J. D. Caldwell was the first preacher and he served many years, until ——. The first house of worship was constructed in 1865 at a cost of \$1,000. The second and present house of worship was erected in 1899 and has been improved once. Reverend Knapp has a congregation of 150 people and the church is prosperous. The usual societies are active in the work of the society.

The second Presbyterian society at Jesup was established April 20, 1856. This society was composed largely of former members of the Barclay church. J. D. Caldwell was the first preacher and a house of worship was built soon after the organization which cost approximately four thousand dollars. This church has been merged with the First Presbyterian, the union occurring some time in the '90s.

The history of the St. Athanasius Catholic Church at Jesup dates back many years, or to 1863, when Rev. G. Gosker made occasional visits to Jesup and celebrated mass in private houses. Rev. J. Shields later came. In 1878 Rev. P. Burk succeeded Father Gosker as pastor of the church at Independence, with Jesup as a mission, and it was during this time, in 1880, that a Catholic church building was erected. In 1881 Father P. O'Dowd was appointed to the charge. Rev. J. J. Horsfield was next and is the present pastor. In 1895 a parsonage was erected and in 1898 a new church building was constructed.

The first preaching services held in Perry Township were held in Alexander's log house. This was in the year 1852. Rev. David Gill, of Independence, was the preacher. The Presbyterian society was organized in the log schoolhouse in the north part of the township on June 4, 1853, by Rev. James S. Fullerton and Elder Vaughn. The charter members were: Alexander and Mary A. Stevenson, Robert Wroten, Nancy Wroten, Martin L. Depoy, Sarah Depoy, and Susannah Slaughter. The first meeting was held on June 5, 1853. Until the fall of 1856 the meetings were held in the log schoolhouse, but in this year they were transferred to Littleton, to the stone schoolhouse. The church building at present in use was erected in 1865 at a cost of \$1,000. Numerous times have improvements been made on this building until now it is comfortable and adequate in size for the congregation. The supplies of the church have been: Reverends David Gill, James S. Fullerton, J. D. Caldwell, John M. Boggs, E. C. Bennett, J. C. Melrose, Garlock, E. G. Beyer, Daniel Russell, F. C. McKean,

F. Y. Nichols, W. B. Phelps, and L. Knapp. The congregation numbers seventy-five people. The church is known as the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian.

### SUMNER TOWNSHIP

Sumner Township was set apart as a separate township on March 7, 1857. The order of the court reads as follows: "And now, to-wit, March 7, 1857, it is ordered by the court that township 88, range 9, excepting sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 12, Nos.  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $38\frac{1}{4}$ , section 13, and No.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , section 11, together with sections 30, 31 and 32 in township 88, range 8, and sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of township 87, range 9, and section 6 of township 87, range 8, be set apart and organized into a separate precinct, to be called Sumner; and that an election be holden in said precinct on the first Monday in April next, at the house of John Ginther in said township, for the election of township officers, county assessor and district judge, and such other officers as are by law to be selected at that time; and that a warrant for such election issue to Norman A. Bassett, constable. Signed, O. H. P. Roszell, county judge."

The township was named for the famous Massachusetts senator, Charles Sumner.

Several changes have been made in the boundary line of the township since the original planning. Several sections have been taken from it and added to the original congressional townships from which they came. In 1878 the county board of supervisors ordered that the grounds for the Independence State Hospital for the Insane be separated from Sumner Township and annexed to Washington Township.

The first election in the township was held as planned in March, 1857, and the following officers elected: John Ginther, Jube Day, and William Boyack, trustees; B. W. Ogden, justice; and Norman A. Bassett, clerk. At this election there were only twelve votes cast.

### SETTLEMENT

The first settler in the township was Michael Ginther. He settled here in the spring of 1847. He made the first entry of land in the township and connected with this occurrence there is a story. He was an uneducated man and when he made his entry he was at loss as to how to describe it. Not wishing to be wrong in his description he carried the corner stake to Dubuque, going there on foot for the purpose. The climax comes when it was found afterward that the entire placing of the entry was wrong, the land being on the wrong section entirely. He had intended to buy the land on which he had settled and on which is the famous spring known as the Ginther Spring, about half way between Quasqueton and Independence, on the west side of the river; and when he found the entry he had really made was one mile west, and out on the prairie, he was completely discouraged, being a poor man and believing that land so far out would never be any good whatever. Mr. Ginther voted at the first election in the county.

John Ginther, a brother of Michael, settled here in the year 1854 on a tract of land in the south part of the township, where he lived his entire life. John



Jacob Slaughter

Martin L. DeJoy  
Hester Melrose

Sarah DeJoy  
Susan Slaughter

Charles Melrose  
Nancy Wroten

Mary A. Stevenson  
Robert Wroten

Alex. Stevenson

CHARTER MEMBERS OF PLEASANT GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ORGANIZED JUNE 4, 1853, NEAR LITTLETON



Ginther was of German descent. He was one of the original organizers of the township, and it was at his house that the first election was held, also the first religious services.

B. W. Ogden settled in the northern part of the township in 1853, coming here from the State of Ohio. He was a native of Frederick County, Virginia. He had been a school teacher prior to his coming to Iowa and when he got here he resumed his old occupation. He taught the first school in the township in his own log cabin. He was one of the men instrumental in building the first regular schoolhouse in the township and also taught the first term of school there.

Jube Day settled in the western part of the township in 1855 and was one of the first in that section. He was a native of Massachusetts. His residence in this township extended only to 1869, when he removed to Westburgh Township. When he came to Sumner Township his neighbors were all four miles or over from his home, with the exception of R. R. Beach, who settled here with Day. Beach in later years moved to Minnesota.

Orlando Cobb settled here in 1853, about a quarter mile south of Independence. He developed a splendid farm on this spot, a farm which is still known as one of the best in the county.

William Boyack, a Scotchman, came here in 1854 from the State of Illinois.

J. W. Wheeler settled in the township in 1856 and for many years lived on the farm which he settled.

#### SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

The first school in the township, as before stated, was taught in the winter of 1853, in the north part of the township, by B. W. Ogden. There were twelve scholars, many of them adults, studying primary courses. This was entirely a subscription school. The next winter there was a school at Michael Ginther's, also conducted by Ogden. In 1858 a schoolhouse was constructed in the northern part of the township, under the supervision of Ogden, who taught the first class at this place. Soon after another house was built in the Ginther district. Charles Lewis, later judge of the Eleventh Judicial District, Ida Shutliff, Amelia Miller and Mrs. Sueler, were other first teachers in this community. Mrs. Sueler had her school in her own home.

There have been no regularly organized religious societies in this township, but in the early days meetings were held in the schoolhouses and at private homes, conducted by some circuit rider.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The first wedding in the township was that of James Palmer and Charlotte Ginther in 1856 and nearly the same time Francis Metcalf was married to Maria Palmer. B. W. Ogden performed both of these ceremonies.

The first wheat raised in the township was by the hand of Michael Ginther.

It is said that the first white child born here was Austin W. Ogden, on February 11, 1854.

The first death was that of Mrs. William Applegate, in the winter of 1854. Exposure to the hardships of the season undermined her health.

## THE KING'S DAUGHTERS

In 1886 a few Christian women met together in a neighborhood circle, in the City of New York, and because they felt the need of a bond of fellowship, not then existing between the denominations, the thought in the mind of each was to form an organization that should "develop spiritual life and stimulate Christian activities."

From the fact of their being but ten of them and because of the idea presented in the "ten times one is ten" series by Edward Everett Hale, then popular, the suggestion that they call themselves, "The King's Daughters," was made and the order was founded.

The badge of the order is the Silver Maltese Cross, with the initial letters of the watchword of the order, "In His Name," and the word "Seal" on one side and the date 1886 on the other, worn with or without the purple ribbon.

The motto of the order is:

"Look up, not down  
Look out, not in,  
Look forward, not back  
And lend a helping hand."

Three of the young women of Sumner Township, visiting in neighboring states in 1892, first learned of the order, and out of this grew a circle that has grown as did the original one, out of all proportion to the thought of those who started the suggestion.

The Silver Cross Circle of the King's Daughters was organized in June, 1893, with the following charter members: Lucy Tidd (Straw), deceased; Alma Rosner (Palmer), Alice Warburton (Meythaler), Margaret Meythaler (Hood), Mary Hintz (Van Eman), Garden City, Kansas; Minnie Chapman, and Carrie Warburton (Harter).

Gertrude Cornwell, Julia Gates, deceased; Bertha and Edith Bolton, were also among those who joined in the first few months.

The circle now has a membership of thirty-five, with former members in Washington, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois. Its members have been instrumental in forming circles in Kansas and Illinois and several points in Iowa, and from one of these latter members grew the first Greek letter organization of the University of Iowa.

The circle aims to live up to its watchword and motto and so has been able to help those in need, not so much by financial assistance as by sympathy and the helping hand.

## LINCOLN LITERARY CIRCLE OF SUMNER TOWNSHIP

Feeling the lack of knowledge of many country neighborhoods in current events and a review of the life and works of our popular authors and writers, a few of the women of Sumner Township met at the home of Mrs. W. H. Warburton, February 12, 1903, to talk up an organization of some kind.



The result was the L. L. C.—Lincoln Literary Circle—so called from the fact of the first meeting being on Lincoln's birthday (February 12th). The motto of the circle is, "With Malice Toward None, with Charity for All."

The first officers were: Mrs. Mary Oglesbee, president; Mrs. Anna Hintz, vice president; Mrs. Alice Meythaler, secretary and treasurer.

The charter members were: Mrs. Oglesbee, Mrs. Funk, Sarah Cornwell, Mrs. Cates, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Van Eman, Mrs. Hintz, Mrs. Alice Meythaler, Cora Cornwell, Misses Minnie Chapman, Gertrude Cornwell, Carrie Warburton (Harter).

Meetings are held monthly, on the second Thursday, at the homes of the members and during the years of its organization the circle has reviewed the lives of many of the men and women of our country prominent in all walks of life, aiming to always keep uppermost our motto. Once or twice a year musical programs are given. During the four winter months the circle holds all-day sessions, a picnic dinner, the families of the members being present.

The present officers are Mrs. C. B. Webb, president; Mrs. E. W. Johnson, vice president; and Mrs. Chas. Randall, secretary and treasurer.

#### WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

The first organization of Washington Township by order of the courts was as early as the year 1848. It then included the congressional townships of Washington, Hazleton, Perry and Fairbank. In the above mentioned year, an election was held for Washington Township, and Isaac Hathaway, John Scott and John Obenchain were appointed judges of the election. No record of this election was kept, however, and the result has been lost as a consequence.

Perhaps the first settlement made in territory now comprised in Washington Township was made by Isaac Hathaway in September, 1845, about two miles east of Independence. He entered the land upon which he settled. When Hathaway first came he found a rude hut constructed of poles hewn from the nearby timber, but as to who constructed the crude dwelling he had no knowledge, nor did he ever learn. During the winters of 1845 and 1846 they came to Centre Point for corn, paying twenty-five cents a bushel for it. They called this place Egypt. When Mr. Hathaway settled here there were no settlers north of him in the county, nor west in the township. His nearest neighbors at this time were Henry Baker in Byron Township, three miles east, E. G. Allen, Joseph Collier and Gamaliel Walker in Liberty Township, five miles south. Early in the spring of 1846 Hathaway constructed a log house for the better accommodation of his family. Supplies came mostly from Dubuque at this time, with the exception of those brought from the one little store at Quasqueton and a mill owned by Davis & Thompson, where they ground corn. The abundance of game, however, kept their table well supplied with meat during the months when travel was difficult.

The next spring Mr. Hathaway raised his first crop of wheat, forty bushels, and fenced in eighty acres of land. Mr. Hathaway made other improvements from time to time and was fairly prosperous or as much so as the early settler could be. Hathaway was born in the State of New York, came to Ohio when a young man and married there, and from this state went successively to Michi-

gan, Wisconsin, Illinois and then Iowa. He lived in Iowa for about twelve years, then sold out and moved back to Ohio, but shortly returned to this state, bought a farm near Greeley's Grove, where he remained for about five years when he again became restless and moved to Cedar County, where he lived until his death in 1872.

The first school taught in Washington Township was conducted in Hathaway's log home in the winter of 1846.

John Obenchain became a settler in this township in the spring of 1846. He was the first after Hathaway and was located about three miles from his home. He obtained funds at the start by raising hogs and then drawing them to Dubuque. He built a rude shanty and began to break prairie with a yoke of oxen. He was a native of Virginia. In 1850 Obenchain went to California, attracted by the gold fever of the times, but came back again in 1853 and lived here until 1860, when he started for Oregon, where he spent the remaining years of his life.

Oscar Wickham settled in the north part of the township in the spring of 1846, and constructed a rude cabin. He was a native of the State of Ohio. He left here after a few years' residence and went to Linn County, then to Fayette County, then to Kansas. His whereabouts after this are not known.

Michael Ginther came about the same time as Wickham. In fact, they lived together in the same house. In 1850 he moved into Sumner and is credited as being the first settler in that place.

On November 18, 1846, Thomas Barr became a settler of Washington Township. He built his home in the north part on land which he entered from the Government. He lived for many years in the township and was one of its most honored members.

John Boone settled in the township in November, 1846, entered his land and built on the site later occupied by the county poorhouse. After living here about one year he sold his place to I. F. Hathaway and removed one mile away, in the same township, purchased 200 acres of land, built a house and began the making of improvements. He and Isaac Hathaway built a log house and hired a teacher in the winter of 1847. Boone was always noted as a hunter and trapper. His death occurred May 22, 1881.

#### OTTERVILLE

Otterville is the only village located in the township and is located near Otter Creek, about half a mile from its junction with the Wapsie. This village was platted about the year 1857, by Robert T. Young, who owned the ground. One of the first industries to be established in this place was a sawmill, owned and operated by James Dyer in 1854. Three years later there was a gristmill. The former was abandoned in 1878. The year after the sawmill was established a wagon shop was opened by Enoch and Zachariah Hall; and a blacksmith shop was started by Homer Sanders.

The postoffice of Otterville was opened about the year 1860 and the first postmaster was George L. Wileox. His immediate successors were Mr. Ostrander, S. H. Stanard, George Sprague and J. T. Anderson. This office was dis-

continued on July 15, 1902 and Otterville is now served from Independence by a rural mail carrier.

The first store was established in the village in the winter of 1861, and was kept by various parties until 1875. The store kept mostly groceries and other general merchandise.

A hotel was opened to the public in 1863, by Mr. Robertson. This hostelry did business for about twelve years.

The first bridge across the Otter at this point was built in 1868.

The Methodist Episcopal religious organization was established in the Village of Otterville during the first year of the Civil war. This church is still in existence and has a present membership of about forty-five. The records of this church were not procurable, so that the detailed history of the society is impossible. This society did disband prior to the organization of the Presbyterian, but about 1895 reorganized.

The Presbyterian Church at Otterville was first organized on May 19, 1889. Previous to this time there had been no attempt at organization, due to the lack of members. The coming of several letter members of the Pleasant Grove Church at Littleton made the church possible. Among these were: J. C. Wroten, J. W. and Mary A. Plummerfelt, Mrs. Adelia Bright, Mrs. Elizabeth O'Brien, Caroline L. Smith, John Slaughter, E. J. Slaughter, S. D. Trego, G. L. Trego, Ida Trego, the latter three being from the Baptist Church at Littleton. The society having been organized, interest once more seemed to lag, and not until November, 1892, did the people become really active again. At this time renewed interest was taken and the society steadily grew. The new church building was dedicated on August 30, 1896, with quite elaborate ceremonies. The church membership at the present time, 1914, is over one hundred active members.

#### UNION GRANGE FAIR

In the year 1872 the Union Grange No. 525 of Otterville, conceived the idea of giving an annual fair, for the exhibit of stock, cereals and other farm products, the same to be sectional in interest and devoted to the improvement of agriculture of the township and county. The first fair was given in that year and, with one or two interruptions, has been given every year since. No admission is charged to the exhibit, which is shown under canvas tents, and the premiums, some of them cash, are paid from a sum donated by the ones interested. Thus, the fair in almost every respect but size, is similar to the Hazleton District Fair. The Otterville fair is generally held in the first week of October.

#### WESTBURGH TOWNSHIP

Westburgh Township was organized in the fall of 1860, by order of the County Court, reading as follows: "In the County Court of said county: Be it known that, on the petition of M. D. Weston and others, the court aforesaid, this 6th day of August, A. D. 1860, constitutes and forms a new township, 88, range 10, in said county; and it is ordered by the court aforesaid that the

new township thus formed be called by the name of Westburgh, in accord with the wishes of the voters thereof."

The name of the township was selected when the residents met at the house of one of the settlers to take the steps necessary for presenting the petition to the court asking for township organization. M. D. Weston, who lived in the north part, desired to have the new township named Weston, but the people in the southern part of the township would not have it unless the suffix "burgh" was substituted for the "on."

The first election was held at the house of John R. Sabin. There were sixteen voters in the township at that time, all of whom were there but J. W. Goen, who was ill. I. N. Myers was chosen clerk at this election; John Bowder, assessor; M. D. Weston, P. G. Davis and Eli Lozer, trustees; John R. Sabin and D. M. Noyes, justices; Isaac A. Williamson and R. A. Whitlock, constables; and Eli Lozer, road supervisor. Every man was given an office with the exception of Robert Stewart, W. B. Wilkinson, J. R. Noyes, Benjamin Cain and Peter Cox. At the election in 1880, 150 votes were cast, showing the growth in the township in the intervening years.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENTS

The first permanent settlement in the township was made by Peter Cox, who came here in 1849 with his mother from Indiana, and built the first cabin in the section. About a month after settling he purchased his land from the Government.

D. M. Noyes settled in the township with his family in 1859. He was a prominent man in the organization of the township and served as one of the first magistrates. He lived here for eight years, then moved to Michigan, but later returned and lived at Jesup. He was a native of Vermont.

Peter Ham came in 1855 and settled on land entered from the Government. J. H. Goen came from Indiana in 1857. His son L. W. was one of the first editors of the Conservative at Independence. L. B. Wilkinson and family came to this state and settled here in 1855 on section 31. John R. Sabin and family came from Indiana in 1856 and settled near the center of the township. The first election was held at his home on account of its central location. Philip Ham came in 1856, but soon after moved to the State of Illinois. Patrick Shine, a native of Ireland, settled in the township in 1857. M. D. Weston, mentioned in the petition to the County Court for the organization of the township, came with his family in 1858. About ten years later he went to Dakota and there died. John Bowder settled here in the year 1854. His house was the second that stood in the township. This home was made of slabs driven down into the ground. A hole cut in the wall, before which hung a buffalo skin, served him as a door. Bowder lived here until 1862, when he removed to Jefferson Township.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The first wedding in the township was that of Isaac A. Wilkinson to Mary E. Noyes on May 3, 1864. Rev. Edwin Champlin performed the ceremony.



SCENE IN OTTERVILLE



The first school in the township was opened in 1861 at the house of D. M. Noyes, and there were ten scholars. George Fuller was the teacher. The same winter there was another one at the house of William B. Wilkinson, with eight scholars, taught by Libby Murphy. The next spring two schools were built, one near the residence of D. M. Noyes and another near the center of the township close to the home of Peter Ham. Mary E. Noyes taught one of the schools the following summer. Among the early teachers were George Fuller, Mary E. Noyes, I. N. Myer and Edward Noyes.

The postoffice at the settlement of Vista was discontinued on December 31, 1904.

The Methodist Church at Vista has been organized since 1878. The church at present has thirty-five members and is in charge of Rev. H. Wyrick, living east of Jesup. An old church constructed by the Baptists years ago is now used for services.





## CHAPTER XIV

### COUNTY FAIRS

#### THE FIRST COUNTY FAIR—THE BUCHANAN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

##### FIRST BUCHANAN COUNTY FAIR

The first notice of a county fair appeared in the Independence Civilian of July 23, 1857. It had been suggested by a number of individuals that the citizens of Buchanan County should take measures to form a "County Agricultural Fair" to be held in such town as determined upon by the committee appointed for that purpose, and in order to get the people interested to offer premiums to exhibitors for the best specimens of farm produce. It was thought perhaps the season was too far advanced for that year, but the meeting should be called and the ball put in motion for next year. Accordingly several meetings were held which culminated in a county fair being held in Independence October 13 and 14, 1858. In the Quasqueton Guardian of February 25, 1858, appeared a call "to the farmers of Buchanan County" and all others interested in the formation and maintenance of a county agricultural society, in view of the importance as well as benefits derived from a properly organized and well regulated agricultural society, were invited to meet at Morse's Hall, in Independence, on Saturday, March 20, 1858, to perfect such an organization. This notice was signed by forty-one of the prominent business men and farmers of the county. Pursuant to this call, a meeting was held and an organization perfected and a constitution was adopted. Dr. H. S. Chase was elected president of the enterprise and Abiatha Richardson, David Merrill, Newman Curtis as vice president; L. W. Hart, secretary; O. H. P. Roszell, treasurer, and John Smyzer, William Logan, Rufus Conable, William H. Elliott and Charles Hooker were elected as directors. Committees were appointed and the officers and especial committees were delegated to solicit members and money for the society, and 200 hand bills advertising the society were published and scattered throughout the county. A board of managers, consisting of five members from each township in the county, were appointed; this made fifty-five on the board, as there were only eleven townships. S. S. McClure was appointed chief marshal. Premiums were offered on much the same things as now days, on farm animals, field, orchard and garden produce, dairy and household manufactured articles, including many things which now appear in the Floral Hall premium lists and what was of an entirely different class was the mechanics' work department divided into first, second and third classes. In the mechanics' work the list included almost everything that ever was or could be manufactured in the

county—the first class offered premiums on twenty-four different articles, most of which were farm machinery. In the mechanics' work—second class—premiums were offered on seven articles, all of which pertained to leather industries (boots, shoes, harness and the different kinds of tanned leather comprised the list). This at first promised to be one of the most important industries of the county. The third class offered premiums on six different industries, as follows, best specimen of cabinet work; best specimen of tailor's work; best specimen of tin-ware, not less than five pieces; best specimen of blacksmith work, not less than three pieces; best specimen of carriage or sign painting, and best specimen of printing. In the household manufacturers' class the unusual premiums were best piece of flannel—not less than ten yards, best five palm leaf hats, best two pounds of stocking yarn, best three pairs woolen socks, best three pairs woolen mittens, best pair of ten quarter woolen blankets, best pair of shirts. One dollar and 50 cents were the premiums awarded on these articles. We give these lists so one can get an idea of what were the various employments and accomplishments of those early pioneers, what their necessities and luxuries of fine arts embraced. Many of these classes had no entries and many, though having a small number, were exceptionally good for that early day.

In the first class awards were given on the best two-horse wagons, best buggy, best ox yoke, best specimen horseshoeing. In the second class awards for best dressed calf skins, best coarse boots, best ladies' shoes. The third class was for best specimen blacksmith's work—three pieces. The premiums were 50 cents and \$1.00 on these different articles.

It is interesting to read these lists and compare the difference between the early fairs and those of today; for instance, a premium of \$3.00 was given for the best 25 pounds of May or June butter. Imagine this profligacy when now the fair committees are glad to get entries of pound packages. One dollar and fifty cents for best sample of butter made in September; \$1.00 for 12 pounds September butter; \$1.00 for jar of brandy cheese.

Premiums were offered for best sweet potatoes, best gallon of Chinese sugar and cane sugar; only two premiums were offered on domestic cookery—best loaf of bread and best specimen of cooking—not designated what kind of material.

Among the premiums for miscellaneous articles were the following: A premium of \$2.00 was offered for map of Independence drawn with a pen; this was awarded to Thornton & Ross. This was a very creditable piece of work and afterwards these men had copies printed and sold them throughout the county. Now there are only a few in existence and are treasured highly. Two dollars for bits, augurs and gun work; \$2.00 for 1 dozen domestic cigars; 50 cents for roast of beef (who wouldn't give 50 cents for a roast of beef, even without a premium attached).

Seventeen awards were given on horses in fifteen different classes. Thirteen awards were given on cattle in nine different classes. Oxen and steers entered were required to be presented in the yoke with a chain to secure them, and be accompanied with a suitable person to take charge of them. The committee on working oxen and four-year-old steers had to try the cattle presented for premiums, both on wagon and chain, and award the premiums for the best working cattle, considering their docility, training, close matching, strength, size and beauty. Only one entry in sheep was made, although premiums on

eight classes were offered and although there were several flocks in the county. Five awards were given on pigs in a like number of classes.

Only three awards were given on poultry. One field crops awards were given— \$5.00 for the best acre of wheat, \$3.00 best acre of corn, \$1.50 best acre of potatoes, \$3.00 best acre of Vermont eight-rowed yellow flint corn. One fine thing was the amounts given to the committees in charge of the different departments and authorizing them to recommend discretionary premiums upon such articles and animals if they deemed the same to be highly meritorious, although they might not come within the list of premiums, and such awards would be paid at the annual meeting in January, where all premiums were paid if the funds would possibly admit. The society were furnished the courthouse for the display of manufactured, fancy and household articles, and for fruit, vegetables, grain, etc. Hay would be furnished gratis during the fair for all stock presented for premiums.

For special attractions there was a Ladies' Equestrian Performance, three prizes awarded for the best exhibition of horsemanship, a silver cup worth \$8.00— for the second best, a \$6.00 riding hat; for the third prize a \$4.00 riding whip.

This exhibition was the center of interest in the entire two days' program. There were six entries in the contest, all popular young women of the town. The exhibition was to take place at the race course which then occupied the grounds of the West Side School Building. It was the opinion of the judges that the horses were generally inferior while the riding was uniformly good.

There was a plowing match too, but this did not command the attention that the riding contest from the fact that plowing was a very common, every day occurrence. The exhibition closed with an excellent address by C. A. L. Roszell and the reading of the premiums by Colonel Thomas.

The omens were not as auspicious for a complete success as could be desired on account of the weather which on the first day was cold, blustering and stormy but the second day the weather-man changed his attitude toward the enterprise and gave his sanction to it by doling out a very propitious temperature and climate. The different committees generally made their awards impartially and to the general satisfaction of everyone. It was the opinion of some of the judges that though several fine horses were exhibited, the display was inferior to what the county was capable of producing; in cattle there were thirty-two entries, some of them very fine, showing even at that early day one of Buchanan's specialties was foreshadowed. The display of swine was quite creditable, the finest specimens were of the Suffolk variety. The display of poultry was not large but the varieties exhibited were fine, among them some Chittagong fowls, probably an extinct variety. In sheep, as we have mentioned previously, there was but one entry, that a fine merino buck and ewe belonging to C. H. Jakway, now of Aurora, one of the first importers of sheep in the state; an anecdote connected with Mr. Jakway was that he once offered a pail of fine butter in Independence for 4 cents per lb. and could not find a purchaser.

The fruit and vegetable exhibit was pronounced excellent—some fine large sweet potatoes were exhibited by E. B. Older and a radish 2 feet in length and 12 in. in circumference, which was grown in Jefferson Township by Mr. Romig.

Mr. Romig also exhibited samples of white and yellow seed corn which had produced 75 to 80 bu. per acre that year.

Some of the Chinese sugar cane syrup presented was pronounced equal to the best golden syrup then in market. Mr. Lathrops and Mr. Reed's were especially fine. The butter entries were all of a superior quality. The one entry in cheese was of excellent quality.

This society, of which we have given a very detailed account, deeming an Agricultural Fair, one of the most important interests of a farming community continued in existence but about four years. A good deal of interest was manifest and the displays continued very creditable considering the imperfect development which had at that time been made of the agricultural resources of the county. It was found difficult, however, to keep up the interest, for the lack of funds to offer attractive premiums, and the organization therefore was soon abandoned. At their 4th Annual Fair, in 1862, there was a fine exhibition of sweet potatoes and a squash weighing 104 lbs., also fine specimens of sorghum, syrup and sugar. For several years the show of cattle and horses of the Buchanan County Agricultural Society was on the ground west of the Empire House. That of domestic manufactures was in the rooms of the hotel and the secretary had his office in the east room during the fair.

In 1866 a second society was organized, held two fairs, very much of the same character as the previous ones, and was then abandoned like the other. Neither of these societies owned any ground or other real estate. Their means for defraying expenses, paying premiums, etc., were derived from membership fees (\$1 annually from each member) and \$200 contributed by the state for each fair held. These sources of revenue being found insufficient, the joint stock plan of organization, then common throughout the state, was finally adopted.

The next agricultural association adopting that plan was organized in 1869, and held its first fair the following year. The first officers were as follows: L. S. Curtis, president; J. H. Campbell, treasurer; Jed Lake, secretary. The capital stock originally subscribed was \$6,000, to which was added soon after the organization \$600 more. This was increased by a donation of \$1,000, made by the county in accordance with a law of the state. All this not being sufficient to meet the estimated expense of an equipment that should enable the society to make "a fair start," it proceeded to borrow \$1,500—making its entire outfit \$9,200. With this money it purchased about sixty acres of land, owned by James Burns, about half a mile west of Independence, being a part of the northeast quarter of section 5, township 88, range 9; enclosed it with a close substantial board fence; built along its south and western sides convenient stalls and sheds for cattle, a stable one hundred feet in length for horses, and an octagonal floral hall twenty-two feet on each side, graded a half-mile race track, and dug four excellent wells. The aggregate expense of all this was \$9,100. The main hall was two stories high, with a wing on one of its sides 22 feet in width by 60 in length. This wing is used for the exhibition of fruits and vegetables, while the main hall was devoted to flowers, articles of domestic manufacture, works of art, etc.

Fairs have been held annually ever since this society was organized, which have always been successful, pecuniarily, and for the most part creditable to

the farming interests of the county, which should be the chief care of such an organization.

The capital stock of the society is divided into 200 shares, one-half of which are owned by Jed Lake, Esq., the most of the other half being held by the farmers throughout the county. The society is still in debt about one thousand two hundred dollars.

Eventually "the Agricultural Fair" became, honestly speaking, the "Annual County Races," and in the days when Independence was a veritable hot-bed for speed and breed in horse flesh—the races were the chief attraction of the entire fair and even in 1880 the former historian decries the fact that racing was being made such a prominent feature and was the absorbing interest of the fair and proves his statement by saying that on Thursday, the first day devoted to that part of the exhibition—1,900 tickets were sold at the gate, how would he exclaim if he had known the figures of the 1891-2 fair when thousands crowded every available space on the grounds to see the fast horse races, and for no other purpose and on that memorable day when Axtell and Allerton raced each other in a record breaking heat.

A County Agricultural Society was organized in the county on March 26th, 1886, by a number of prominent men. On the 27th a meeting was held at the courthouse and S. T. Spangler was chosen president; L. J. Dunlap, vice president; F. B. Bonniwell, secretary; and F. A. Weatherbee, treasurer. It considered renting the old county fair grounds at the Rush Park site for the fair that year, and possibly to buy the grounds later.

This Association was conducted with various degrees of success, mostly in a less degree. If judged from a financial standpoint although the Association endeavored to do its part and give the people a good fair. But a fair, cannot be conducted successfully on "good intentions" alone and the Association did not have the cooperation of the farmers either in their attendance or exhibits, and this fact too, did not warrant expensive attractions.

In January, 1909, the Fair Association was entirely reorganized, a stock company formed, of which the representative farmers and business men are the stockholders. One hundred and fifty-four shares of stock were sold. W. M. Woodward was elected president, A. H. Farwell secretary and W. A. Tidball treasurer and eleven directors were named. Since this organization was perfected the Fair has been steadily prospering, and with the "Booster" spirit manifested it is expected that the Buchanan County Fair is scheduled to be one of the big fairs in the state.

#### THE BUCHANAN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

In January, 1891, the Buchanan County Agricultural Society bought thirty acres of land of Thomas Searcliff, just north of the Illinois Central Depot grounds, and in the spring began improving it for the permanent County Fair Grounds.

The site selected is considered to have much natural beauty, easily accessible, and makes one of the finest fair grounds in the state. The society is controlled and almost wholly officered by farmers. Subscription papers were placed in the hands of the township assessors and every one had an opportunity to show

their good will toward the society. No one was asked to subscribe a large amount but all were expected to give something, from 50 cents to \$5.

In 1897 the fair attractions eclipsed all previous records, the association having secured the "Doctor Carver Combination" which consisted of Dr. W. F. Carver, champion rifle and wing shot of the world and the high diving horses, which dove from a platform forty feet high into a twenty-foot tank of water. An immense crowd witnessed both of these marvelous performances.

The Buchanan County Fair of 1904 was one of the most successful for years. On Thursday probably 7,000 people visited the fair, the big attraction was the appearance of the noted Carrie Nation. She delivered her temperance address and had an attentive, appreciative audience. After the speech, several minutes were devoted to selling her souvenir hatchets and throngs of people invested in the trinket, the proceeds from the sales to be devoted to the temperance cause. The exhibitions were exceptionally good and the weather ideal.

Other special features which have attracted immense crowds were the diving elks, and in 1911, Otto W. Brodie was secured by Secretary Rigby to give exhibitions with his flying machine, a "Farnum Biplane." It was rather a disappointment in some respects, the machine was so old and hard to manage that only one successful flight was made, that on the first day when in alighting he seriously injured his machine.

But in spite of this fact it was a novel sight and well worth the money, as very few in the county had seen an aeroplane. In 1912, the chief attraction was the automobile given away to the one holding the lucky ticket—and souvenir spoons with each admission was another drawing card.

In 1913 extensive improvements were made on the grounds—an addition equal in size to the original amphitheater was built on the north of the old one, new gate-ways, fences, stalls, etc., were added.

In 1914, Micky McGuire, "The Wild Irish Rose," was the star attraction and gave three flights a day, of the most marvelous, thrilling and hair-raising feats. He is a fearless spectacular aeronaut and the immense crowds were spell-bound. Flower-decorated carriages was also a big attraction. One novel feature was the night fair. All attractions were open, the grounds brilliantly illuminated and besides the regular performance, splendid fireworks drew a large crowd out every night.

On Thursday, the largest crowd that ever attended a Buchanan County Fair poured through the gates. Both amphitheaters were packed and standing room along the entire west half of the track was at a premium. Hundreds of automobiles were crowded in the half mile.

The following named persons have been secretaries:

Jed Lake, C. W. Williams, George H. Wilson, T. B. Bonniwell, A. H. Farwell, J. W. Foreman, A. H. Farwell, C. W. Stites, Charles L. King, P. G. Freeman, A. G. Rigby, J. S. Bassett, and Perry J. Miller.

## CHAPTER XV

### INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS

PUBLIC HIGHWAYS—BRIDGES—RAILROADS MAILS AND MEANS OF COMMUNICATION  
—THE TELEGRAPH—THE TELEPHONE

#### PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

All land originally belongs to the Government and is apportioned to the inhabitants by certain defined methods, such as lotteries, runs, claims, etc. The private ownership of land must necessarily be subject to the convenience of public need, and the rights of the individual are subservient to the just demands of a community. About the first and most necessary thing to claim the attention of the authorities, after a city or county is organized, is the establishment of public highways. Often before the settlement of a new county the State or National Government establishes some roads. Sometimes these are kept as originally laid out, but more frequently, perhaps, have to be changed or given up, entirely. Two such roads were already in existence at the time of its organization. One of these was established by the authority of the Territory of Wisconsin, and extended in a southeasterly direction from Fort Atkinson in Winnesheik County to Marion, in Linn County, that being its southern terminus. Its course through the county was nearly straight south, passing near where Winthrop is now located and cross the Wapsipinicon at Quasqueton. It was called the Mission Road, because it passed through an early Indian Mission in Wisconsin Territory and was partly designed for its accommodation.

Another laid out in 1846, was from Marion to the north line of the state, crossing the river at Quasqueton, but running three or four miles west of the Mission Road.

In this new, unsettled country, before the state and county roads were established, the early pioneers followed such routes as were best suited to their convenience, from house to house, neighborhood to neighborhood, and village to village. The Indians, too, followed their inclinations and natural intuitions. Their trails crossed the prairies from stream to stream, leading to easy fording places, and well-worn paths led up and down the rivers and touched every clear and bubbling spring. These Indians were visible many years after the country was settled, but the latter day settlers supposed them to be merely cattle paths. It would have been wise to have marked all these early trails, then all this obscurity and discussion over historical facts would not have been. As is evident in every phase of historical research, too little attention is paid to the minor things of life. The importance of these things is just now beginning

to be appreciated and historical and patriotic societies, like the S. A. R. and D. A. R. are marking these early Indian and wagon trails throughout the country. In Buchanan County, even after the county seat had been located, and the Town of Independence laid out theoretically into lots and streets, there was nothing to distinguish streets from lots; even Main Street was only a crooked wagon path through the brushes. One of the early settlers informs us that at the east end of the Main Street Bridge the street hollowed down about five or six feet lower than it is at present, and a slanting approach was built up to the old bridge. All north of Main Street, was oak woods and hazel brush. There was one old shambling barn—about at the corner of Main and Chatham streets. Independence proper, that is, the business portion, was situated farther east, in the old King's Opera House and Morse Block and on South Main. There was a crooked wagon road cut through the timber north to the old Smyser Farm, crooked still, in the northeastern part of Independence, crossing Malone's Creek, near the old Brewer and the W. H. Gifford places and thence east to the Elzy Wilson Farm and from there, following the timber to Quasqueton, about where the regular travelled road now is. There was another road north, up past the Sprague Farm and across the prairie toward the old Thomas Barr place and up Otter Creek, but so faint as to be scarcely discernible. There was neither road nor track up the river, except an Indian trail; and not even that across the prairie to the west, nor to the east beyond the timber nor out toward Brandon or Buffalo Grove. To venture two miles west on the prairie, was about as dangerous as to venture to sea, out of sight of land, without a compass. The mail was carried once a week to Cedar Falls, on an Indian pony. But there were no marks of any kind to guide the carrier; and, if, by careful observations, he kept within a mile of the direct course, it was quite a feat of prairie craft. The mail came once a week from Dubuque to Independence, via Quasqueton, in a one-horse wagon; but there was not a bridge in the county, nor across any stream between Independence and Dubuque, nor any regular ferry. If streams were too deep to be forded, they must be crossed in canoes, or by swimming, or upon rafts. Such were the means and methods of intercommunication between the different parts of the county as late as 1849.

Several county roads, however, had been regularly surveyed and established, and travel in their several directions was becoming chiefly confined to them. At their very first meeting, October 1, 1847, the county commissioners had received and granted three petitions for the establishment of as many different roads within the county. The first was for a road from Independence east to the county line, in the direction of Coffin's Grove. Rufus B. Clark, James Collier, and John Boon were appointed viewers of the same, to meet on the first Monday in November. The second was for a road from Independence to intersect the state road from Marion to Fort Atkinson—John Obenchain, Edward Brewer, and Elijah Beardsley being appointed viewers, to meet on the date last mentioned. And the third was for a road from Quasqueton to Independence, on the west side of the Wapsipinicon River—the viewers, Rufus B. Clark, Levi Billings, and John Cordell, being also directed to meet on the first Monday in November.

At the same meeting it was "ordered to employ a surveyor to do the surveying on the above roads, and to lay off a town at the county seat." And at their next meeting, November 3d, F. J. Rigand was appointed county surveyor.



The next petition for a road was presented and granted at a meeting of the commissioners, April 10, 1848, the route being from Quasqueton to Otter Creek Settlement. The viewers appointed were James Collier, D. B. Springer, and John Obenchain, who were ordered to meet at Quasqueton, on Monday, May 1st, 1848.

The origin of a State Road in Buchanan County, which afterwards became the road from Dubuque to Sioux City, was as follows:

In 1848 the Legislature appointed J. W. Clark and Clement Coffin, of Delaware County, and S. A. Stout, Buchanan County, to lay out and establish a State Road from Delhi to Independence.

In 1851 Thomas W. Close and Isaac F. Hathaway, of Buchanan County, and Andrew Malorky, of Blackhawk County, were appointed to lay out and establish a State Road from Independence to Cedar Falls. At the same session of the Legislature, that part of the road running from Delhi to Independence which was west of the South Fork of the Maquoketa River, was declared a State Road.

In going from Independence to Brandon on the regular Brandon Road one wonders how it came to be laid out in such an angling fashion, and thereby hangs a tale. In December, 1851, seven of the citizens of Brandon heard rumors that the county seat town was starting up in real earnest and having a curiosity to see Independence, they decided to visit the metropolis and corroborate those rumors. Snow lay thick on the ground and sleighing was good. The old horses were hitched to the bobsled and with noses pointed northeast they followed an unknown trail with only their intuition and sense of general direction to guide them, but they reached their destination and found Independence, all and more than anticipated, although then it was but a trading point, of possibly a dozen dwellings, one or two stores and a saw mill and blacksmith shop. After making due observation of the place they started for home, across the bleak, unbroken prairies. It was getting dark and with nothing to guide them, they soon became lost, and to be lost in those days meant suffering and might even mean death if the weather was severe, with not a farmhouse in the whole sixteen miles. But in the harness ahead was hitched their salvation in the shape of a horse long past its foolish coltish days. So they gave the old horse free rein, depending upon his sagacity and intuition to bring them safely home. The faithful old beast realizing the dependence placed upon him took a bee line, home, and landed them safely at their destination. Others in traveling the road picked up the trail and from ever after that it was followed and thus the angling road became a permanent one. Eventually O. H. P. Roszell surveyed a road along that line. Later comers tried to square up the road and change its course, but a remonstrance generally stopped the proceedings. Some few changes have been made in the old trail, but generally it is along the line where on a cold winter's night, sixty-three years ago, an old horse, remembering the comforts of his stall, carried his master across the trackless prairies home. The names of those who were in this adventuresome ride were Jacob Fouts, Matthias Davis, Annabel Wood, John G. Rice, C. J. Tracey, M. Palmer and W. H. Fouts, all of whom, with the exception of W. H. Fouts, still a resident of Brandon, have left the pioneer trails for the streets of gold. September 29, 1858, Dr. F. C. Bartle, of Independence, who had received the appointment from the Legislature, had

arrived in Dubuque for the purpose of laying out a state road from Gutenberg to Independence, and would commence operations immediately.

Petitions for roads were constantly before the supervisors until the county is a network of roads, and every point is accessible. And with the constant repairing of the roads and the vast expenditure of money thereon, the county roads are becoming fine and among the best in the country. Iowa in the judgment of automobilists has better roads than any of the western states, and that the "good roads" proposition has become such a vital factor in the country's welfare is largely due to the demands of the automobile.

Buchanan is traversed by two "automobile highways"—the Hawkeye Route cuts the county east and west, practically following the old state road. The North Star Route cuts the county north and south. It enters the county just northeast of the Town of Walker, Linn County, and leaves it, just north of Hazleton.

The Quasqueton and Anamosa Road running through Newton and Spring Grove townships was surveyed and located in the summer of 1851. O. H. P. Roszell, of Independence, surveyed the road through Buchanan County. This part of it commenced at Quasqueton and ran in a southeasterly direction. No attention was paid to congressional lines, only keeping from a half mile to a mile north of the timber, with the exception of two or three places where it ran through narrow strips of timber. A great deal of his diagonal road has been straightened from time to time as the country became settled.

The road crossed a good many sloughs. The longest slough over which the road passed was in Newton Township and was called the big slough. It was a quarter of a mile wide where the road crossed it. There being but few to work the road, years passed by before many of the sloughs were graded.

It took a vast amount of work to make roads in the early days. The sod in the sloughs was almost as tough as leather and had to be plowed with a breaking plow drawn by three or four yoke of cattle. After it was plowed the sod was cut into chunks about a foot in length with axes or spades, and then was either carried in the hands of the road workers or with pitchforks. After the sod was removed, if the ground was dry enough, it could be plowed and scraped into the road with scrapers. Of course the grades were low and rough and in wet times were but little better than the sod outside of the grades which was often used in preference to the grades.

The Quasqueton and Spring Grove and Newton townships roads used before there were any laid out roads was on better ground than the latter, from the fact that the people followed the ridges which often required the making of many curves. The country being open, there was nothing to hinder them from choosing their own ground for a road. The places to cross the sloughs were also selected and used. But as more settlers came into the country the old sod was broken up and fences built across it in many places. Consequently the people had to travel on the laid out road, which for many years made the traveling worse.

In the early day the roads were often very circuitous owing to impassable sloughs and streams, this before the days of grading, draining and bridging. The Brandon Road leading out of Independence was an example of one of these crooked roads. Just at the outskirts of town, at what was for years

known as Curran's Hill, the road turned in a semi circle to avoid a slough, which when the river was high was completely flooded with water. For years this circuitous route was travelled until through the inexhaustible labors of Doctor Bryant, who in pursuing his profession was greatly inconvenienced by the terrible condition of the roads had the road built straight through the slough, and now there is scarcely any evidence of this former impassable mire. One of the old Quasqueton roads used to follow the river from Independence to Quasqueton on its west bank.

#### BRIDGES

The bridges throughout the county have always caused the people a great deal of trouble and until recent years, when it is somewhat bettered by the more substantial structures, they were a source of continual trouble and until recent years, when it is somewhat bettered by the more substantial structures, they were a source of continual trouble and expense—but communities never seem to build any structures except for present needs. Their motto was "the present, let the future take care of itself," which is all right in some ways but certainly not from an economical standpoint. These first bridges were poorly constructed, cheap affairs and every spring freshet damaged them to a more or less extent, often the loss being entire.

In 1858, the floods took the bridges at both Littleton and Quasqueton and a part of the bridge at Independence, and all these had to be rebuilt. The one at Quasqueton when completed was the best bridge in the county. In 1862 the bridge was destroyed at Littleton, this had been recently built, then in 1863 the Independence Bridge was carried off; then a freshet in January, 1866, demolished the bridge at Otterville, which had just been finished. This was a sad calamity, being the third that season. But the citizens were not daunted and immediately proceeded to build the fourth structure.

When the bridge at Independence was destroyed in 1863, the supervisors not having sufficient means to rebuild it, and the several other bridges which were out, began agitation to establish a county bridge fund. Heretofore there being no funds available for that particular purpose the bridges had been built largely with public subscriptions and donated service. Accordingly the proposition was put to vote and won by a majority of twenty-one votes. Nine townships voted 13 to 510 against it (these were the townships not having bridges to build); that meant only five townships were for it (there being only fourteen townships then). This established a tax levy of 5 mills.

A little incident about the bridge at Independence is that people used to hitch their teams down under it, on hot summer days. It was a cool, delightful place and furnished protection from the heat. The supervisors probably never calculated that the bridge would serve as a horseshed. The teams were driven down from the east side of the river where the gas house is now situated. In June, 1870, the Board of Supervisors let contracts for building twelve new bridges in the county, the most expensive of which was the bridge across the Wapsipinicon, just south of Independence and which cost \$4,265. The bridge was 180 feet in length, the contract awarded to Risely & Scott. In 1870 the city council of Independence built two bridges within the city limits,

one across Malone's Creek in the first ward—northeast and the other across Blood's Run (in the Third Ward), one block east of the Rock Island Track. In the last of February, 1871, the Main Street Bridge at Independence was swept away by terrific floods and ice impact against the piers.

The bridge at Independence for months in 1862 was in a disreputable and dangerous condition. It had been patched and patched until it looked like the smallpox and rode like the rocky road to Dublin. The railing at the side was in an awful condition and built so high that a colt backed off under it and fell overboard, a distance of twenty feet into the water beneath, but was not injured and calmly swam out. The reason of this laxness was really not the road supervisor's fault. Everybody worked out their road taxes then and very little money came into the hands of the supervisors with which to buy new lumber. Calls were issued for public meetings to consider the dangerous state of the bridge, which was becoming more dangerous and a positive disgrace. A horse had broken its leg by stepping in a hole and this would cost the county a considerable sum which might have been expended toward a decent bridge, and later an elephant in the Mabie Show fell through at the west end, a distance of twenty-five feet. This was a very valuable animal, being the most perfectly trained and most valuable in the country and it was just luck that he escaped being killed.

But this patching continued until the supervisors were finally persuaded that new planks were imperative.

At Littleton the bridge which was built after the flood of 1858 was again carried off with the high waters of 1862. This had but recently been completed at a cost of \$1,000.

At Otterville they lost three bridges in "periodical succession," but were not disheartened and immediately began on the fourth.

In the winter of 1864 the frost had contracted the stringers of the Main Street Bridge at Independence and made it unsafe for teams to travel over, so hopes were entertained that a new bridge would have to be constructed, but not until the spring freshet of 1865 swept it completely away, and many months were spent in argument and persuasion on the part of the citizens, was a new bridge built, and all those months the greatest inconvenience was experienced.

In 1871 another flood wrecked the Main Street Bridge at Independence, but it was patched up until 1873, when the splendid two-span bridge was built by a Canton, Ohio, firm for \$18,000 or \$19,000. This did service until 1892, when the present structure was erected.

In the fall of 1880 a new iron bridge was built about thirty rods south of the one in existence at that time, having been condemned by the supervisors some months previous. The contract was let to Mr. Zinn and cost about ten thousand dollars. A remarkable thing in connection with the building of this bridge was that two large granite bowlders furnished enough stone to build both piers and abutments.

In the year 1896 the supervisors built thirty-three bridges, three of them steel, at a cost of \$3,598.50, and one in process of construction at Fairbank to cost \$5,197.

The second bridge at Independence was built later and in 1913 a very

handsome, substantial one was erected at Littleton. This is undoubtedly one of the finest and most artistic bridges in the county.

Nowadays, instead of so many bridges with expensive iron superstructure, the supervisors are building of concrete and many places using tile and making culverts instead of the usual bridge.

Early in March, in the spring of 1892, the Main Street Bridge was in the process of construction.

A contract was let to Mr. Young. For weeks the work dragged and the bridge was in a state of incompleteness. The first long delay was occasioned by the discovery by Mr. George, the engineer, of a piece of faulty and disproportionate construction which he ordered removed and something better substituted. The fault was not with the contractor, but with the bridge manufactory at Clinton. Not until June was the floor of the new bridge completed and no railings or barriers between the roadway and sidewalks as yet. The bridge was finally completed at a cost of \$13,000. That the work was done well is testified from the fact that it is still the much traveled Main Street Bridge.

In the summer of 1913 the planking again became very much worn and was given a coat of asphaltic-concrete. This is but an experiment and time will have to prove its worth.

At the regular June session of the board of supervisors, on June 13, 1894, the question of the location of another wagon and foot bridge across the Wapsipicon River at Independence was brought up. Delegations of citizens called on the board and urged the new structure. The principal reason given arose from the location of the electric street car line across the Main Street Bridge and to the fact that the cars frightened the horses.

The board voted to construct a bridge across the river on First Street south of Main Street. A small piece of land necessary for the west approach was bought for \$300. The bridge was one span, 180 feet long. The piers were made of tubular steel. The structure was furnished by Dan Young of Manchester for \$8,999. Mr. Young also constructed the Main Street Bridge and other bridges in the county.

#### RAILROADS

Buchanan County, although not intersected with as many railroads as are many of the counties of the state, yet has enough, and so located as to furnish excellent shipping facilities to nearly every part of the county.

The Illinois Central, which was formerly called the Dubuque & Sioux City Road, passes through the county east and west in an almost direct line, and about through its middle it passes through Winthrop, Independence and Jesup.

The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, commonly called the Rock Island, which was formerly the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern, intersects the county from north to south. It enters the county about the middle of Hazleton Township, proceeds almost straight south through Hazleton, Bryantburg and Independence and still straight until section 21 of Sumner, when it slants diagonally to the southeast through Rowley and on down through the county.

The Chicago Great Western cuts diagonally through the northeastern corner of the county in Buffalo and Madison townships, in a southeasterly

direction passing through the towns of Stanley, Aurora and Lamont. And this same road, the Chicago Great Western Railroad, again cuts diagonally through a small section of Fairbank Township in the extreme northwestern corner of the county. The Town of Fairbank is situated on this road.

Another, the Chicago, Anamosa & Northern, recently extended from Anamosa to Quasqueton, and the electric line through Brandon from Waterloo to Cedar Rapids.

#### ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD

The first railroad built through this county was the "Dubuque & Sioux City" or "Dubuque & Pacific," which was the proper name, now the Illinois Central, having been transferred by a perpetual lease, about the year 1870. The first intimation of the railroad being extended through Buchanan County was the appearance in a paper of March, 1856, of a printed circular gotten out by the Dubuque & Pacific Railroad Company to the citizens of Dubuque, Delaware, Buchanan and Blackhawk counties, calling on them to advance funds for the building of the second division of their road, that is, from Dyersville—it was then under construction as far as Dyersville, Dubuque County, and promised to be completed that far and in use by November 15th of that year. The railroad company demanded that the aforesaid counties subscribe \$250,000 each, in their corporate capacity, promising, if they were sufficiently successful in obtaining stock subscriptions (a million dollars for a basis), the division would be extended as far west as the Cedar River.

The next notice was issued by Judge Roszell, in compliance with a petition signed by 350 citizens and voters of Buchanan County, ordering a special election to be held in each township on July 3, 1856, to determine whether the county would assist in the construction of the Dubuque & Pacific Railroad by issuing \$200,000 in county bonds at the rate of 10 per cent, payable in 17, 18, 19 and 20 years. The railroad company was to pay interest on said bonds until the railroad should be open for business as far as Independence and for six months thereafter. This proposition lost. Money was very scarce and the citizens found great difficulty in meeting the payment of taxes for the ordinary county expenses, as the pages of delinquencies with which the county papers were filled testified. So this particular railroad proposition was dropped, although for several years thereafter similar propositions were voted upon.

Again in June, 1858, Judge Stephen J. W. Tabor issued a call for a special election for practically the same proposition. In May previous to this an informal meeting was held at Quasqueton, which was addressed by Mr. Platt Smith, Esq., of Dubuque, vice president and attorney of the Dubuque & Pacific Railroad, and he explained the railroad's proposition thoroughly. It was thought that the people had been educated up to appreciating the necessity of a railroad—especially since the fastly increasing production of grain and live stock demanded a more available market. For the farmers to haul all their produce fifty miles to the nearest market, first at Dubuque and later at Dyersville, entailed too much labor and expense, and the establishment of a market at home not only would facilitate market privileges but would greatly advance market values. All the accumulation of produce could be disposed of and create at least a demand

at home and by this advance in prices alone the resident taxpayers would be enabled to pay their quota of the tax and to those who objected to receiving the company's script, if it were taken in exchange for their products, then the company had guaranteed to receive the script in payment of the tax, so no danger could be apprehended that it might not be of money value. The taxable property in the county at that time was but \$2,550,354, and a tax of 1 per cent, which was the proposed levy, would give a little over twenty-five thousand dollars—fully one-third of which would come out of non-resident owners. The actual expense of grading alone as far as Independence would be \$60,000 and the construction of just this portion of the road would leave a surplus of \$35,000. The benefits accruing from the expenditure of this sum in the county needed no demonstration. Furthermore, it was to be expended before the collection of the tax. Another favorable feature of the proposition was that its adoption entailed no extended tax—it began and ended during the current year and could never act as a bug-bear to frighten away prospective settlers, but rather serve as an incentive to settlement. The creation of a market for produce was not the only equivalent offered, for the stock, until the road began to pay dividends, was to draw 7 per cent interest, payable in stock, and should the company in three years, through the earnings of the road and the sale of the land, pay a dividend of 20 per cent, it would give the county an income of \$6,000 per annum and would materially lessen the burden of taxation. To this result the non-resident taxpayers would largely contribute, so that the county was only called upon to make an investment, which would yield immediately and be of great prospective value and advantage, and yet, for the second time, the proposition failed to pass. The whole object of the tax and the effort on the part of the company to secure private subscriptions seems to have been to make it an object to the people of the county, to take the script which the company must issue in order to proceed with the work. Now, with all these and many more pertinent reasons why they should vote the tax and with every possible objection answered it seemed as though there could be no possible chance of its passing, and yet in every election of every kind there should always be a wide latitude for miscalculations.

And like many another absolutely safe and sure political forecast, the plans miscarried. The whyfords of this particular circumstance history and the records fail to state and we can only conclude that like all great things it had to culminate slowly, and that it takes the average human intellect a considerable length of time to grasp new ideas which after mature deliberation seem perfectly tangible and reasonable.

The board of directors of the company then published a circular endorsing the following plan to appraise the lots and lands belonging to the company, issue land script to the amount of the appraisal and pay off the bonded and funded debt by offering for every dollar of debt \$1 of stock and \$1 of land script and to appraise the balance of the 460,800 acres of land which the company were to receive when the first 100 miles of the road was built and issue script as before and this to be devoted exclusively to building the road to Cedar Falls. Then for every dollar of full-paid stock then held or thereafter subscribed, an equal amount of this script was to be issued to the holder or subscriber in addition to the certificate of stock. In other words, as an inducement for

men to furnish means for building the road, the company donated to each stockholder \$100 worth of land for every share of stock for which he subscribed, thus making the stock itself cost him nothing.

This last proposition evidently carried weight with the citizens, for in the fall of 1859 appeared in the local county papers this item: "Glorious news for Buchanan County!! The Railroad Coming!!! On Saturday last our citizens were notified by a few lines written on the margin of the Western Stage Company's way-bill, that the contract for the construction of the Dubuque & Pacific Railroad to this point had been signed and that the work was to be commenced immediately," but so sick had the people become by hope too long deferred, that it was not until Monday when the cheering news was confirmed by the Dubuque papers and by letters, that doubting gave way to universal joy and congratulation. This was in the days when the munificent display of capitals and sensational headlines had not yet struck the editorial caput or the popular fancy, so it must not be inferred that the above newspaper item, printed in an inconspicuous place on the third page and under the usual heading of "Local Matters," and the further top ballast of the "Township Ticket" was not of vital interest and one that stirred the heart of every Buchanan County citizen. It appeared from later intelligence that General Booth, a director of the company, had just returned from the East, bringing the welcome news that a contract for the continuation of the road from Dubuque to Independence had been signed by Oliver P. Root, of Oneida, New York; and the contract stipulated that work should begin at once and the road to be completed to Manchester, then described as being located nine miles this side of Nottingham, by October 1st; to Winthrop, eleven miles further, by November 1st; to a point five miles west of Independence by December 1st, and the balance of the aggregate distance of eighty miles from Dubuque by January 1st. Mr. Root was represented as a practical engineer, a man of energy, and of financial ability, and the utmost confidence was expressed in the fulfillment of the terms of the contract. A few days only elapsed before work on the railroad bridge over the Wapsipinicon had been commenced, the piles were arriving and the work of driving them had already begun. The bridge was in the process of construction at Dubuque and was to be brought out ready to put up when the cars began to run. The bridge was to consist of four spans of forty feet and twenty-four spans of twelve feet, making a total length of 448 feet, and the bridge was to escape the high-water mark of 1858.

Immediately signs of unusual activity were manifested in Independence, and the streets were thronged with wagons bringing in produce. There was a lively competition in the grain market and already a cash value for farm products was established. In one day the editor counted thirty-five wagon loads of grain on Main Street going to the elevators to store their grain, awaiting the forthcoming deliverance. As the time for the opening of the road approached, it seemed a question whether Independence might not be compelled to close her ports of entry, so continuous was the impouring of her golden harvest. New elevators were being speedily erected and several new grain and produce firms had already commenced operations here. An era of prosperity was fairly established. Although the road was not completed quite as soon as expected, owing to some defect in the title of the company, it was close enough so that it was an assured



fact, the people in Independence making the "railroad diggings" the culminating point of every journey, and the all-absorbing topic of conversation and interest. On Tuesday, November 22d, a meeting was held at the Montour House for the purpose of making arrangements to celebrate the completion of the road to Independence. By the 1st of December the track was laid to within two miles of the town and before the end of that week would be completed to the depot grounds, if the weather continued favorable. This was grand and glorious news to everyone and especially to those who had been waiting some time for their pay. There was some discussion among the citizens of Independence over the location of the depot, many wanting it to be located on the west side of the river. On Sunday, December 11th, the track layers were busy all day (work could not be suspended even for the Sabbath day) and the rails were laid to the Independence depot, the turntables were brought up from Masonville and put in order, passenger and freight cars were standing at the depot, and all necessary preparations were made to commence the formal opening of the road on Monday. At 9 o'clock on the morning of December 12, 1859, the first regular train left Independence depot, taking the first shipment of produce, which was made by West & Hopkins and consisted of wheat and pork. From then on the shipments out of Independence station were exceptionally large for the size of the town and as we have told elsewhere, exceeded any other place.

The station agents for several years made out monthly reports of shipments which were printed in the county papers.

When the time set for the celebration arrived, everything was auspicious for a glorious jubilee. At an early hour people came flocking into town from all directions, the streets were soon crowded with a happy, expectant concourse of people who assembled at the depot to welcome the long-anticipated arrival. Many of the younger generation would behold the panting, puffing steel monster for the first time and great was their excitement when at 2 P. M., precisely, according to schedule, the train arrived with four carloads of guests, among whom were the Governor Greys, Captain Robinson of Dubuque, accompanied by the Germania Band. D. S. Lee, on behalf of the citizens of Independence, extended the hospitalities of the town, and Captain Robinson gracefully responded on behalf of the Greys, after which the whole assembled multitude formed in procession, headed by the military company and the band, and marched through the village to the Montour House, where at 4 P. M. a sumptuous dinner was served to the guests by Landlord Purdy. After dinner the military company gave a public exhibition of military drills and manual of arms. The entertainment provided for the evening was a dance at Morse's hall and although it was the largest crowd ever assembled at a dance in Independence, everything passed off harmoniously and in good order, and the enjoyment continued unabated until the summons for the return train brought to a close this pleasurable and memorable occasion. The Germania Band furnished the music for the dance, choice refreshments were served both at the Montour and the Revere houses. The hotels previous to this event were filled to their utmost capacity with people who had come from abroad to witness the celebration and both the hotels and committee on arrangements deserved great praise for their unwearied exertions and the creditable manner in which they entertained the numerous guests. This

celebration completed the spectacular advent of the first railroad in Buchanan County and it now became a settled and indispensable reality, with a bona fide time-table which appeared weekly in the columns of the town papers, and as a matter of fact this particular column of type was always a fresh source of interest and new information—nothing stale or antiquated about those first time-tables, for they changed time every issue, and it kept the prospective travelers busy to keep up with the latest time shifts. An item, which leads one to believe that the railroad company was a more generous corporation than it is at present accused of being, appeared in the papers extending to all of the scholars and teachers of the various Sunday and day schools along the route between Cedar Falls and Manchester, a free excursion to the latter place on August 2, 1862. It was a miserable rainy day but when the train left Independence there were 1,500 aboard, and this number, of course, would be considerably increased by the time they reached their destination. This was no small item, and in those days before the 2-cent rate was even of greater magnitude. Another exhibition of their generosity is that they carried all animals and articles free of charge to the state fair which was then held at Dubuque. The railroad put on its first exclusive passenger trains each way in the fall of 1863. The railroad service for the first few years was not all that could be wished and the inconveniences experienced almost surpassed the benefits, as we have told in another chapter, but gradually the company improved and graded their roadbed so that every heavy snow or freshet could not obstruct or wash out the track and demoralize traffic.

The first station agent at Independence was W. B. Boss, who remained only six or eight months; then two others followed who did not stay long at it, and in 1862 or 1863 C. M. Durham took charge and held the position until his death, a period of over twenty-five years. There have been many since his time.

In the summer of 1899 County Recorder Truax recorded the lease of the Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad by the Illinois Central; this lease was made in 1895, for a period of fifty-six years—or until 1951. The lease covers the 325 miles of track from Dubuque to Sioux City, besides several other branches.

The lease covers several sheets of typewritten paper and contains 7,500 words. A recent change in the law required that it must be recorded in every county through which the railroad passes.

#### THE WAPSI & ST. PETER'S VALLEY RAILROAD

Even before the Dubuque & Pacific Railroad was suggested, another road—called the Wapsipinicon & St. Peter's Valley—proposed the construction of a road which was to begin at Anamosa and run in a northwesterly direction through Quasqueton, Independence and Fairbank, thence north to the state line, where it was to connect with a line through to St. Paul. In other words, this was to constitute a direct line from St. Louis to St. Paul. What their first proposition was we are not prepared to state, but presume it was similar to that of the Dubuque & Pacific and all those early roads. The papers contained frequent editorials greatly favoring the project. But the proposition failed to carry. On May 25, 1857, the question of issuing bonds to the amount of \$250,000 was voted upon and this time carried, the vote exceeding the most sanguine

expectations; "giving a handsome majority, about one hundred, in favor of the loan." (At a special election later, however, the action was rescinded.) But before this everything was apparently ready under the most favorable auspices to commence the construction of the road, but the plans miscarried.

Again, in May, 1870, another railroad project was being agitated; this was known as the Anamosa & Northwestern Railroad Company. They had had assurance of co-operation from eastern capitalists, and with the proper assistance of the people along the proposed route, it would soon be an established fact. Meetings were held and special elections held in the several townships through which the road was to pass. It had received local aid up to our county, Liberty Township had pledged \$35,000 of the \$40,000 asked of her, Newton Township voted the 5 per cent tax levy down, Cono for it, and so on; others voted for it, but the fact of these elections did not bring it and at last it was a dead issue.

At the same time, or shortly thereafter, as the Anamosa & Northwestern were making their propositions, the Ottumwa & St. Paul Railroad were also making overtures to the people of this county. Their surveys were already under way; Iowa and Benton counties both had furnished guarantees and the counties were demanding a guaranty of \$300 payable when the engineers reached Independence, so the guaranty was forthcoming immediately. The line was surveyed through the county, but this, like several other projects, was abandoned.

On Tuesday, March 11, 1873, as per previous notice, a delegation of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Company visited Independence to confer with the citizens on the project of completing the Postville Branch of the B., C. R. & N. through Independence. Some five of the road's high officials were present and were met by the prominent and influential citizens of Independence. Meetings were held for three successive evenings and the company's representatives gave a thorough exposition of the wishes and intentions of the company and a satisfactory explanation of the failure to complete the road last fall.

In place of the tax of \$30,000 then forfeited, the company now asked for a donation of \$25,000 to be raised by subscription and demanded an answer in two or three weeks. The meeting on Tuesday evening appointed a soliciting committee which consisted of ten of the leading citizens.

Liberal amounts were subscribed at the first meetings, but not enough to guarantee its surety. One of the arguments held over the Independence people's heads was that the survey showed a feasible route through Quasqueton and Winthrop, and that if Independence did not secure it these localities, with their rich farmers, would jump at the chance to profit by their lack of enterprise. The prospects of securing the road brightened as the weeks went by. The German property owners, after they became thoroughly acquainted with the merits of the subject, took an active interest and subscribed liberally, and a determination to secure it at any sacrifice. Public meetings were held and finally the required amount was secured and the day of progress and prosperity was dawning. The decision of this question was deemed a crisis in the history of the county, and after it was assured the citizens who had labored so hard for it were jubilant, and they confidently expected, with these added railroad facilities and railroad competition, that Independence would become a thriving city and that manufacturers would flock to so convenient a railroad center.

At the same time, as the project for the B., C. R. & N. was before the Independence people, a narrow gauge road from Anamosa, through Quasqueton to Independence and northwest, was discussed and proposed. The route was pronounced as one of the best and cheapest, following, as it did, the river valleys. These "farmer roads," as they were called, with their cheapness of construction and economy of running expenses reduced to a minimum, were greatly favored by the newspapers and were destined to play an important part in relieving the farming community from the burden of high freights, and furthermore they deemed it not improbable that many of these narrow gauge roads would be planned and built—even on roads partially or wholly occupied by other roads. It was urged and expected that the people of the county give it every encouragement, if the project should assume definite shape. This is but an evidence of the wonderful booster spirit that inspired those early newspaper men.

#### WAPSIE VALLEY RAILWAY

In the spring of 1904, after a cessation of activities, petitions for Wapsie Valley Railroad were again circulated in Independence and Washington Township for a 5 per cent tax to be voted and levied upon assessed value of real and personal property, etc. There were many signers, all of them our influential and prosperous business men, but between 500 or 600 names were necessary to call the election. In two weeks over 500 names were secured and the petitions lacked less than 50 to call the election. On July 1st the question was submitted and carried by a majority of 480. The women voted on the proposition and gave a larger majority than the men.

After a lapse of months and under fire of all kinds of agitation and cogitation on the part of the citizens of Independence, and procrastination on the part of the company, a finale to this muchly sought and desired project was reached.

At a special meeting of the directors of the Wapsie Valley Railroad Company, held September 18, 1904, they formally declined to accept the 5 per cent tax which had been voted in July, 1904, and which the board of supervisors levied, and relinquished all claims to such taxes and consented to the cancellation of the assessment of the same. This action was taken after it became positive that there appeared no possibility that the road would be built, the company finding it not expedient to construct the road under the conditions under which the tax was voted.

After all this, the vote and the subsequent deferred payment of the 5 per cent tax by the directors of the Wapsie Valley Railroad Company, the District Court held, adjudged and decreed that the election was invalid and void and of no force and effect and therefore the levying and assessment of any tax in favor of the West Virginia Railroad Company was illegal and invalid, so as far as Independence was concerned. It was just where it started from, everything wiped off the state. If it had been legally voted it would have barred the people of Independence from again exercising the right of extending aid of this kind for a period of ten years from the date of that election, but under that decree they were entitled to one at any time the promoters of any other railroad proposition again ask for aid. This decree was secured through the efforts of the reactionaries, who expended both time and money in endeavoring

to defeat the proposition, and in November commenced action to restrain the county treasurer from collecting any part of the tax. There were sixteen plaintiffs named in the petition. The reason of this decision of the court was the finding of several glaring technical errors. And thus endeth another chapter in the true and fictitious railroad history of Buchanan County.

#### CHICAGO, IOWA & NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD

A fourth that failed to materialize was the Chicago, Iowa & Northern Pacific Railroad Company, a line that was to connect Independence to a junction with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul in Chickasaw County to erect and maintain a station within the corporate limits of the City of Independence on the condition that the citizens of Washington Township, Buchanan County, subscribe the sum of \$30,000 in aid of such road. The Board of Trade of Independence were very actively interested in the proposition (and all the influential and monied citizens). D. R. W. Williams was the projector of the enterprise. He had previously solicited the citizens for their cooperation to build a through line with Independence as the center of operations, but the citizens, not accepting the proposition thereby lost the golden opportunity to "make Independence the most important city in Iowa." And after refusing the "golden brick" the citizens repented of their folly and requested another chance at the plum basket, but the last plum offered was only a branch road with its terminus in Independence and its outlet the C. I. & N. P. R. Road. The citizens' meeting at the Opera House, October 2, 1885, lacked enthusiasm, and it was evident that the project had cold water over it several fathoms deep, but an adjourned meeting of the Board of Trade was held at Firemen's Hall Monday evening, thereafter, which evinced much enthusiasm and financial support. The soliciting committee reported that they had secured \$6,810 in subscriptions to the grading proposition and \$3,580 on the completed road. At this meeting \$600 more was subscribed. Mass meetings were held with due regularity and at every one the subscription list was amplified. The laboring men and mechanics held a meeting in regard to the railroad project, and at the conclusion thirty-nine men signed an agreement to pay 2½ per cent upon the assessed valuation of their property in Washington Township with the provision that the business men and capitalists of Independence would subscribe aid in a proportionate amount, and besides the subscriptions a 3 per cent tax was voted and the railroad company executed bonds in the sum of \$15,000 for each mile of completed track. The tale is too long and full of details to devote more space to, but the circumstances were almost identical with other similar projects to which the citizens of Buchanan County had previously liberally subscribed. With this exception that the railroad company actually did construct sixty or more miles of grade—the evidence are still easily discernible from Otterville north through the county. Funds then gave out and Mr. Williams went to New York for the purpose of negotiating the bonds of the company to raise money to go on with the work, but time and circumstances were not propitious and he was not successful, so the enterprise was abandoned for a more favorable opportunity.

Again in 1892 the project was revived by the arrival of Mr. Dudley Williams, one of the original promoters, with fresh enthusiasm and a booster optimism, and with a much more favorable proposition. The project of the company had been somewhat modified. The last proposition was to start as before from a junction with the Northwestern Road at Anamosa and run through Independence and on the already graded line to Fredericksburg and thence north and west making various connections to Bismark, North Dakota. This visit did not signify any intention of asking for more financial aid but just moral support and the "glad hand," so to speak. It was given but received no warm response. It was as before a futile attempt.

#### RAILWAY PASSENGER STATIONS

The old Illinois Central Station at Independence prior to 1892 was a combined freight and passenger house. A long platform ran across the entire north side of the building and projected some distance beyond it but was a high one, on the level with the floor of a freight train and was located on a side track between the building and the main track. This track was most of the time filled with cars. The facilities of passengers going to and from trains was not only inconvenient but dangerous.

On August 13, 1891, the mayor, all the county officers and thirty-two citizens petitioned the railroad commissioners to have a temporary order requiring the company to run its trains to the platform for discharging the passengers during the horse association meeting. On October 22d the commissioners visited Independence, examined the station house and tracks and found the situation to be substantially as claimed by the petitioners and on October 27th another petition was filed with the railroad commissioners signed by the postmaster and seventy-seven other citizens asking that the Illinois Central Railroad Company be ordered to erect a passenger depot north of Market Street and west of Chatham Street. This petition was sent to the company and in December they were informed that it was the intention of the company, in view of the business to and from Independence to build a suitable station at this point.

The new depot, according to the plans of the railroad company, was to be located on the north side of Market Street at the head of Chatham Street, facing Main Street, a new through track laid to the north side of the station for passenger trains on the ground between Market Street and the main track then occupied by lumber yards and corn cribs belonging to the company. While this would prevent the opening of Chatham Street it was an improvement that the citizens were anxious to see as the completed arrangement would give the street a more civilized appearance and do away with the annoyance of removing the elevators and buildings.

There were some differences between the city council and the Illinois Central Railroad officials, relating to the right of way for certain streets crossing the tracks of the railroad and a conference of the city council and the Railroad Company's representatives was held in May, 1892, at which a basis of agreement was arrived at. The matters involved were discussed at length at two

conferences of the city council with the Illinois Central Railroad officials and an ordinance prepared by Mr. Knight, which was in the character of a contract between the city and the road was passed. By the terms of this contract the city agreed in general terms to permit the closing of Walnut and Madison streets, where they cross the railroad right of way, and cede the land involved, and also that part of Ross Street lying west of Nelson Street to the Railroad Company for its own use and ownership. Ross Street, it may be explained, is an out of the way and impracticable street  $2\frac{1}{2}$  blocks long, lying east and west along the north side of the railroad embankment and terminating in the river. It could not be used for the highway and was of no possible use to the city.

In consideration of these concessions the company agreed to open Nelson, Chatham and North streets crossing its tracks, for the use of the public and to keep them open permanently. It also agreed to remove all obstructions in the shape of buildings on Chatham Street at its own expense and to plank the tracks on said streets between the rails and one foot on each side, and also to build a first class, brick passenger depot and to have the same completed by September 1, 1892. The plans for the same were exhibited to the council at its meetings.

It is a fine structure of ample proportions and is so placed between Chatham and Walnut streets that the stoppage of trains does not obstruct the street. Covered platforms extend on each side of it to the line of those streets. A handsome park, laid out with flower beds and small trees, make it one of the most attractive depots along the Central Line. The entire cost of this and the new stock yards built at that time cost \$25,000. They also built a fine bridge over the Wapsie at a cost of \$20,000, which was the one used until 1912 when it was condemned and torn down. And for two years they have been constructing one at that point, experiencing great difficulty in establishing the concrete foundations for the piers. It was finished in the spring of 1914 and although a very unattractive structure, is built to withstand all onslaughts of time and weather and will probably furnish data for the next historian fifty years hence.

In 1891 a new passenger depot was erected by the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad Company at Independence, Iowa. The ground was broken in May of that year and the building was rushed to completion in August in time to accommodate the race meet crowds. The depot is situated on Main Street, south of the old one, and on the east side of the track. The foundation is constructed of Anamosa stone and the walls of brick. The elevations were so made that the building has three fronts. The building is 68 feet long and 26 feet wide at the south side, 22 feet at the north, and cost several thousand dollars.

#### GENEROUS TREATMENT

After the fire, the Illinois Central and Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern railroads through the efforts of Mayor Roszell, and C. M. Durham, depot agent of the Illinois Central, and Mr. M. R. Harding, the agent at the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern depot, consented to give a rebate of 20 per cent upon all merchandise shipped to the sufferers from the fire, during the month of June, and equally as valuable concessions were made on the freighting of all building materials.

This generous treatment on the part of the railroads was certainly appreciated by the people of Independence. The editors of the papers were particularly grateful to the railroad companies for considerable reductions from the regular rates on the transportation of the presses and types from Chicago, and the freight on the new Steamer engine was deducted \$43.00.

These facts do not indicate rapacious monopolies, yet at that very time an anti-monopoly party had convened at the Buchanan County Courthouse and nominated a ticket in opposition to those same concerns.

#### MAILS AND MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

It was in 1845, three years after the first settlements in the county, before a regular postoffice was established within its limits.

During this time the settlers had their mail directed to the most convenient postoffice, and from there was brought by private conveyance, as opportunity afforded.

The settlers about Quasqueton, and farther north, obtained their mail from the nearest office in Delaware County, or from Dubuque.

In the early part of the first winter, 1842-3, there was a heavy snow, sufficiently strong to bear up the weight of a man provided he was not too heavy. During this time, Frederick Kessler, on account of being small and light, was selected to bring the mail on foot once a week from a settlement in Delaware County, called "The Colony," near Ead's Grove. As there was no established postoffice in Delaware County at that time, the mail must have been brought there from Dubuque by private conveyance, and held for the Quesqueton settlers until they could send for it. Most of the mail matter previous to, as well as after, the establishment of a postoffice in the county, came through Dubuque, but some living in the southern part of the county got their mail once a week by William Smith of Dubuque, who had the first mail contract through the county, which he carried on horseback. Now if this be true, and he carried mail to Quasqueton from the commencement of his contract, he must have made some private arrangement with the settlers of that place, since the postoffice was not established there till 1845. D. S. Davis was principally influential in securing it and William Richards was the first postmaster. It is probable that Davis was the second mail contractor and that Malcom McBane was the second postmaster, for early in 1847, when A. H. Trask came into the county from Wisconsin, he found them occupying these positions; and Davis sublet the mail contract to him in the fall of that year.

The contract bound him to carry the mail from Quasqueton to Dubuque and back, once every week, on horseback or by any other conveyance he might choose. The "round trip" occupied four days, and he received as compensation \$365 a year. He had a partner by the name of Eli D. Phelps, a brick and stone mason by trade, who came from Wisconsin about the same time as Trask. They took turns in carrying the mail between Dubuque and Quasqueton; and after a short time they made a contract with Davis to carry it between Quasqueton and Marion. At that time, there were but four postoffices between Quasqueton and Dubuque, one at Coffin's Grove, at Delhi, at Rockville, and one at a farmhouse near Epworth.



When the traveling permitted (which was the most of the time, although there were no bridges and no roads kept in order by the public), they went by wagon or sleigh, and sometimes carried a large amount of express matter, in addition to the mail. But sometimes, when the roads were bad and the streams too high to ford with a wagon, they were compelled to go on horseback, and of course carried very little besides the mails. In the winter the snow was sometimes very deep, Mr. Trask, on one occasion, having had to break a track the entire distance from Quasqueton to Farley, when the snow was nearly three feet deep on the level.

The early mail carriers had many adventures and some narrow escapes with wind and weather.

After carrying the mail for nearly two years, Trask and Phelps sold out to Thomas W. Close, who held the contract only about a year, "carrying the mail and doing the county shopping," when the business was resumed by the original contractor, Davis, whose partiality for Quasqueton, led him to discontinue Independence as a part of the regular route; and for some time the residents at the latter place had to make private arrangements to get their mail which was first carried to Quasqueton. The postoffice was established at Independence in 1848, S. P. Stoughton, the champion of that place, as Davis was of Quasqueton, being the postmaster. After holding the place (which brought more fame than money and not enough of either to boast of) for one year, he resigned and Doctor Brewer was appointed in his stead.

The enterprising and public-spirited doctor assumed the duties of mail carrier as well as that of postmaster and sometimes made the trip to Quasqueton on foot, carrying the entire mail in his vest pocket. The souvenir postal, cheap postage and catalogue and mail houses, daily papers and cheap magazines, were then no burden to the mail carrier.

Doctor Brewer paid the first quarterly to the Government with a 5-franc piece, his own commission amounting to 47½ cents. He held the office for six years, and during no one of them did his income from commissions amount to \$5. After a time he put into the office a few rows of letter boxes, and the rent of these increased his income a little.

The meager income of the office is probably to be accounted for, not so much by the small number of settlers as by their acknowledged lack of money. Their eastern friends and relatives showed their generous appreciation of this fact by prepaying their own postage, and the settlers showed their equally feeling appreciation of it by leaving theirs unpaid. Thus the letters, whether sent or received, brought very little money into the office, although there were higher postage rates then than now. Postoffice regulations were very different than they are nowadays, when it takes a 2-cent stamp to budge them from the office.

About 1850 the contest for postal supremacy, which has been waged for some time and with some bitterness between Quasqueton and Independence, was decided by making the latter a point on the regular route west, which was then extended to Cedar Falls, and placing the former on a side route southward. A man by the name of Gould was the first mail contractor on the route from Dubuque to Cedar Falls.

Both the roads and vehicles began to improve, though the roads at certain seasons of the year continued to be almost impassable.

Mr. Trask, one of the pioneer mail carriers, got the gold fever and went to California in 1850. When he returned in 1854 he found regular stage coaches running east and west through Independence, and southward from that point through Quasqueton.

When the railroads intersected the county, east and west, and north and south, it did away with these two stage coach routes, and the great improvement in the roads and the construction of substantial bridges over all the streams made the remaining stage routes comparatively easy. Many of these original routes were maintained until a few years ago when rural free delivery was introduced into the county.

The Independence correspondent of the Quasqueton Guardian mentions, under date of October 19, 1857, that the people of that town were enjoying the luxury of a daily mail through the influence of Senator Jones.

In 1856 there were eleven postoffices in the county—they were Independence, Quasqueton, Fairbank, Chatham, Greeley's Grove, Buffalo Grove, Erie, Pine, Erin, Frink's Grove, and Brandon. Of these only the offices at Independence, Quasqueton, Fairbank, and Brandon are still maintained. In August, 1858, a new mail route was established between Independence and McGregor, hacks starting from the Judson House, Independence, every Monday morning. On October 1, 1860, a direct mail route was first established between Fairbank and Independence; this was a much-needed route. J. F. Sullivan was the first contractor.

In 1862, by an act of Congress, a new mail route was established from Independence to Vinton via Brandon, with weekly service. The regular Brandon mail route was not established until 1862, when by an act of Congress a new postoffice had been established on the route from Elkader to Independence and between Independence and Buffalo Grove. The new office was called Castle-ville and Samuel Castle was appointed postmaster. One was established from Independence to Janesville, with B. L. Thompson as mail carrier; one from Wolf Creek, with Wm. A. Dana as carrier, who was also carrier from Independence to Fredericksburg, this route having increased to two trips per week.

Another route was established from Elkader to Independence, and also one from McGregor to Independence. Most of these were established in 1861 and 1862.

#### THE TELEGRAPH

The people of the county thought that with the extension of the Dnbuque & Sioux City Railroad all their troubles with delayed mails and insufficient communication would be at an end, but they found to their sorrow that a combination of wind and weather just as seriously affected the railroad traffic even to a far greater degree than it did the old mail routes in the early days as the road beds were poorly graded and there was no protection from drifting snow, and none of these monstrous, modern snow plows that cut through the drifts like gophers burrowing to facilitate matters. When the bridges were washed out or the snows drifted over the tracks, the mails were delayed often for weeks at a time, as in the great snowstorm of 1861, when mails were irregular from January 15th until March 1st, and most of that time

Independence was bereft of outside communications. Then, at the conclusion of the winter's blockade, the spring thaws and rains washed out bridges and embankments and caused more trouble and took weeks to repair the damages sufficient for regular traffic. In the winter of 1862, in the fourteen days from February 13th to the 17th, only five mails were received, two of those coming on the same day, although the railroad company had promised to bring them through on sleds and had contracted to furnish at least tri-weekly service. Then for five days after that no mail whatever was received, and so on, continuously and not until the middle of March was the road opened up clear through, which caused general rejoicing. And not alone the poor mail service, but the great inconvenience and positive harm done the patrons, shippers and merchants demand that some definite measure be taken to overcome this difficulty.

General dissatisfaction had been incurred by the railroad company for the extremely lax manner in which they had conducted their business. It seemed as though no great effort had been made by them to fulfill their contract. This, like the previous winter, was an exceptionally bad one, with heavier and more frequent snows, but that did not quite excuse the railroad company or greatly alleviate the animosity of the people against them. Letters of complaint from the persecuted and long suffering public, followed by letters of explanation and vindication from the railroad company were of frequent occurrence. The roadway was fenced the next year, which prevented the drifting to a great extent and the recurrent blockades. During those exciting times, with rumors of impending battles or those that had already been fought, only meager and unreliable news could be received and only in a roundabout, desultory manner, and the suspense was maddening to those having friends and relatives in the conflict. All the war news came through Cedar Rapids. Then in July again terrific rains and high water did great damage; in some places the embankments were washed out for distances of 200 feet and 42 feet deep. For four weeks there had been little or no traffic and only mail and passenger trains. Consequently a vast amount of freight had accumulated at every station. Mails were from three to five days late and it took five days going from Cedar Falls to Dubuque. Temporary tracks were laid, but it took months to repair the road to its former condition. These interruptions of mail service continued indefinitely, and even unto this present day railway mail service is not all that could be desired, depending wholly on the favorable or unfavorable conditions of the weather, but with no telephone or telegraphic communications the delays seemed almost unbearable, especially during war times.

So in consequence of these intolerant conditions early in the year 1862 agitation was begun in Independence for a telegraphic line to be built out from Dubuque, but the proposition made by Mr. Stimson, president of the D. & S. C. R. R. Company, to the people along the intended route did not meet with particular approval, for the reason that the railroad company expected too much of the local people and they refused to meet with the company's demands, so the matter was dropped for a time, but finally, in the fall of 1863, a line was started out of Dubuque and was expected to be finished before winter. By November the holes for the posts were dug as far west as Jesup and wires were stretched to Independence and by the last of December the line was in full

operation. This was of incalculable value to the business men, as well as obviating the news question.

The only letter that we found in commendation of the railroad company was written on January 20th by twenty-four of the prominent citizens who were blockaded in the storm some four miles east of Manchester, just five days after the big snowstorm commenced and the first train had succeeded in reaching Independence, and at that early stage of the blockade they felt that their deliverance home justified an acknowledgment, so resolutions were passed extending unqualified thanks for the gentlemanly and courteous treatment accorded them by the conductor and engineer, also for the kindness shown them by the citizens of Manchester who upon being warned of their perilous situation four miles east of them came on horseback to their aid.

#### THE TELEPHONE

The introduction of the telephone into Independence was in May, 1880, when a temporary telephone line for the exhibition of the instrument had been established between Tabor's drug store and C. D. Jones' insurance office. "It works nicely and it now seems probable that a permanent system will be established in Independence," as several of the citizens had expressed a willingness to subscribe to the project. The charge for the use of each instrument was \$36.00 per year. Kellogg & Holloway had the first paid line installed from Independence to their lumber and coal yard at the B., C. R. & M. depot. The wire was stretched along on the tops of the houses and the erection of poles proved unnecessary, except in one or two instances.

The Hoover mechanical telephone was used, but not proving satisfactory, was discarded and the Bell instrument was substituted, and a private line was established between their office and Oak Hall Grocery, and a line was established to the hospital. The office was located at Tabor's drug store.

This first system was not satisfactory and the phones were removed, with the exception of the one to the hospital, which had connection with Tabor's drug store.

In November, 1886, a city telephone exchange was reestablished, with about thirty subscribers. The central office was located in C. R. Wallace's drug store, where O'Brien's clothing store is now located. Here it remained until it was removed to its present quarters.

#### TELEPHONES

The first ordinance to be granted to a telephone company by the City of Independence was dated April 11, 1888, and was given to the Iowa Union Telephone and Telegraph Company, to erect poles, wires and fixtures upon the streets and alleys of Independence.

The second ordinance was granted to the Wapsie Valley Telephone Company, composed of F. Kelley, J. F. Elliott and W. P. Durham, of Troy Mills, Iowa, and was dated September 14, 1897.

On July 9, 1900, an ordinance was granted to the County Telephone and Telegram System.

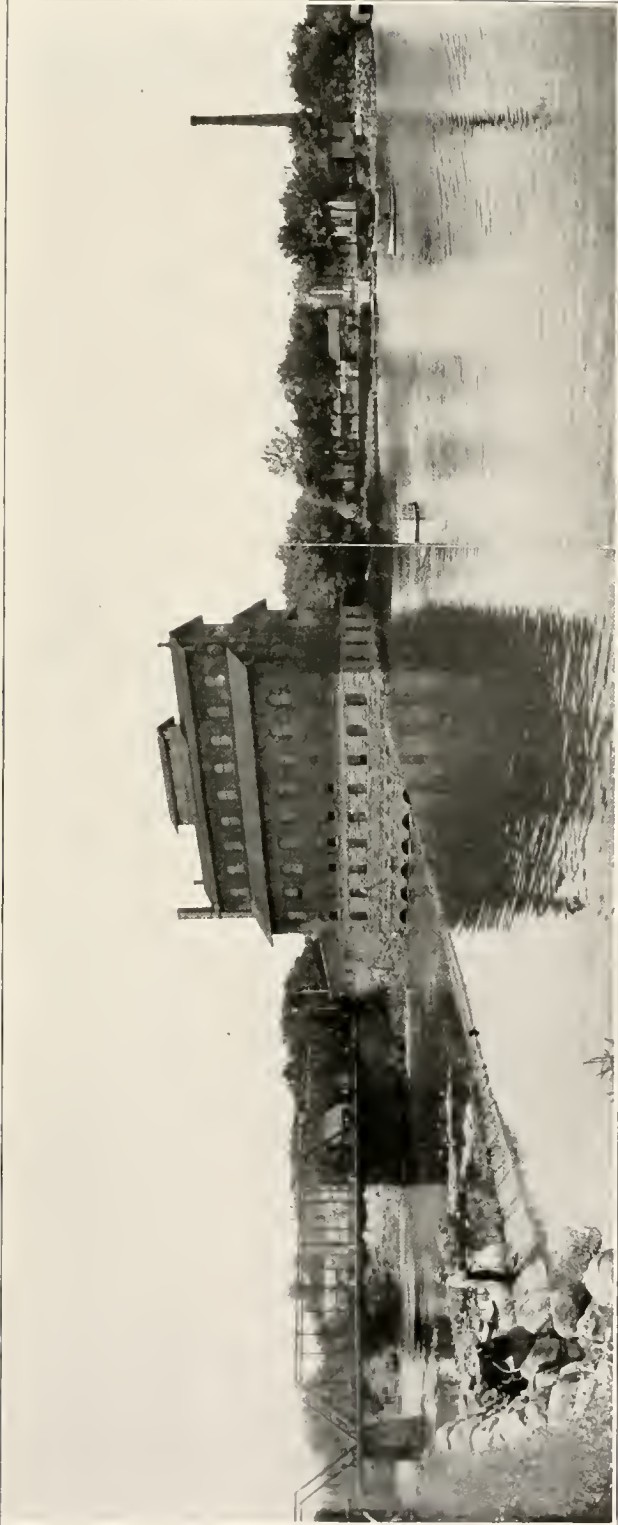
The first company to operate in the city was the Iowa Union Telephone and Telegraph Company, which company later became a co-part of the Bell Telephone System. Their office was in 1897 or 98 removed from the C. R. Wallace Drug Store on South Main Street to the floor of the Morse Block over Logan's Dry Goods Store. In 1897 the Wapsie Valley Telephone Company erected their plant and began business in competition to the Bell System and at this time the first farmer lines were introduced to the local office.

The contest reached its climax about the year 1909. At this time the rivalry became bitter; residents were using two telephones, one of each company, which proved a great inconvenience and expense. Finally, a compromise was effected between the two companies, which resulted in a consolidation of both business offices, the Bell office being removed to the Corn Belt office over the O'Brien Dry Goods Store on South Main Street, and it is the popular understanding that this insured the local exchange business to the Wapsie Valley, or the Corn Belt Company, and all toll business was given to the Bell Company. This is the state of affairs at the present time. There are six exchange girls employed at the present time and the office is finely equipped with all modern appliances.

The first long distance connection which the City of Independence had with the outside world occurred in the spring of the year 1898. Local people were allowed to talk with their friends in distant states free of charge; and several calls were made to New York and San Francisco, Texas, Kansas and other points. A band concert held in New York City was enjoyed by many people in Independence.

The telephone business is one of the most vital and prosperous in the city, if number of subscribers and use of the phone is any criterion. Something over one thousand phones are on the local exchange and an average of 6,000 local calls per day and on busy days 300 toll calls. But it is always a busy day in the Corn Belt office. Mrs. Emma Moore has been the efficient and accommodating toll operator for about fourteen years.





PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE WAPSIPINICON AND THE OLD DAM





## CHAPTER XVI

### MISCELLANEOUS

CLIMATE—WINDSTORMS—BLIZZARDS—ACCIDENTS—RIVERS—FLOODS

#### CLIMATE

The weather of Buchanan County is like that of all this section of the country, as variable as the wind that blows, as diverse in its extremes of heat and cold as the thermometer can "conscientiously register," and combines every phase and condition of climate known to meteorologists. This may be a trifle exaggerated, but the weather reports prove the assertion that Buchanan County can boast of more different kinds of weather than almost any corresponding area in the United States of America. Possibly this can be accounted for in the fact that a real weather prognosticator dwelt among us, and took especial delight in "variating and variegating" it so that we would not become cloyed with any one particular kind. We refer to Mr. John Busby, lately deceased, who had won an enviable reputation far and near for his proficient weather prognostications and was known as "The Weather Wizard—The Goose Bone Prognosticator."

But weather has always been here and one of the strong features of this climate. It greeted the earliest settlers, in the winter of 1842-43, which was, according to those early accounts, one of the most severe on record. On the 17th of November a terrible snowstorm commenced, accompanied by wind, which caused immense drifts. Most of the houses having been hastily erected that spring of logs, were imperfectly chinked and plastered and it was impossible to keep out the drifting snow. Kessler's was in this condition and his family took refuge at Clark's, which was better protected. On returning after the storm, they found their house drifted completely full and buried, even to the chimney, and had to dig out their furniture piece by piece. They dug a regular stairway from the door to the top of the snow, and also one to reach the water in the spring close by, through snow fourteen feet in depth. The storm ended in a sleet which left a hard crust on the surface strong enough to bear the weight of a man and this was the way the mail was carried to Ead's Grove. The privations which these poor, illy-prepared pioneers endured would appall the generations of today. The spring of that year was just as backward and cold as the winter had been severe. On the 1st of April the river was still frozen and teams crossed on the ice. We believe this is a record which has never been broken, and undoubtedly our climate has changed since those pioneer days—increased population and agricultural pursuits have greatly changed and modi-

fied it. The winters of those days seem to have started early and continued late, even more so than now and with heavier snows, or if not heavier, with more chance to drift and less convenience to get rid of the superabundance.

"The great snowstorm of '61," as it is recorded in history, is as interesting in detail and full of dramatic incidents as a description of Cook's North Pole discoveries, and equal in beautiful and sublime poetical material and natural illustrations as Whittier's "Snow Bound."

The great storm, or more properly speaking, a series of storms, commenced on Tuesday night, January 15, 1861, and continued with intermissions of two or three days all through January and February up until March. During the first night of the storm snow fell to a depth of from eighteen inches to two feet on the level and being accompanied by a fierce wind, the prairies and railroad cuts became so drifted that an effectual embargo was laid upon all communication between town and country, as well as between the beleaguered town and other railroad cities.

The circumstances that intensified the almost unbearableness of the situation was that the Civil war was then in progress and with many of the fathers, sons, husbands and brothers at the front, and no mail for days at a stretch, and that containing stale news and still more harrowing accounts of battles fought or about to be fought and with no means of learning the details or results, the people were nearly distraught with apprehension. This condition existed all that winter and the railroads were alternately blamed, then praised. From January 15th till the 26th of February, there were but two trains into the city and none since the 23d of January, which made over a month with only such communication with the outside world as the mails occasionally hauled on sleds to and from Manchester.

The snow laid on the ground till into April, not a patch of green to be seen. But this was not so unusual in those days, for we found a notice where on the 8th of April, 1865, the thermometer registered 12 degrees below freezing. Previous good weather had led the farmers to start putting in their crops, but Jack Frost chilled their ambition for an early crop. This article further states that a furious gale delayed the westbound train seven hours, completely stopping it sixteen times between here and Manchester. This certainly must have been a veritable hurricane and the trains not so substantial as our present "Big Mogul" engines and unswervable steel ears. On the 5th of June, 1859, occurred a killing frost in this county. An early settler told of coming here by team from Dyersville and landing on the 4th of June. That night ice formed in the pitchers at the hotel where they were stopping. All vegetation was black and wilted and the loss to crops was great, considering the small amount of acreage. This was followed by an unusually hot, dry summer; rain did not fall for weeks and the ground became so baked and dry that wide cracks were seen everywhere. The springs, ponds and creeks dried up and the cattle had to be driven sometimes for several miles to water. Fall feed was very scarce, but this was not such a direful calamity then with the small number of animals in the county, as similar circumstances would now be with thousands of head of stock dependent upon it. The spring of 1865 was another remarkably late one, snow to the depth of six or eight inches falling on the 22d of April. It snowed continuously for about thirty-six hours and although it did not last long, there

wasn't a tree budded or a blade of green grass to be seen until May, that year.

Another most unusual spring was in 1910, when Mr. March, instead of coming in like the proverbial lion and going out like a lamb, changed his repertoire and was so mild and balmly that vegetation immediately hurst into leaf and bud, and with the continued warmth and sunshine every bud burst into full bloom. But this was unprecedented, unusual and unofficial weather and must, therefore, be summarily reprimanded for such presumption. So March took a change of heart and rescinded all his previous good intentions, the weather turned extremely cold, froze all the blossoms on the trees; the fruit crop was an almost total failure; every leaf fell off the trees, and a more pathetic looking landscape could not well be imagined. Everyone thought we would be destitute of any foliage that entire season but remarkable as it seemed the trees put forth an entire new crop of leaves and the foliage was not perceptibly lighter that year than usual.

Several winters without snow enough to furnish one sleigh ride have been recorded, and it would seem that we do not have nearly the amount of snow fall as in earlier years, for sleighing is never long continued now.

The winter of 1873 was one of unusual severity. In January there were terrific snowstorms throughout the entire Northwest. One in early January continued three days. A pioneer declared that during his seventeen years' residence on the prairies of Iowa he had never seen a storm of such severity and duration. The railroads were effectually blocked for several days—consequently no mail. Many persons lost their lives in the counties in the north and west of Buchanan but fortunately no one did here.

The summer of 1863 was an exceptionally hot one. The thermometer ranged around 90° and most of the time 94° and 95° for two or three weeks continuously. All over the entire country the heat was oppressive and the poor Northern soldiers under the scorching Southern skies, tramping miles upon miles in the dust and heat, without rest or shade, and often going hours without water, suffered untold agonies.

We have January thaws, February ground-hog days, March winds, April showers, May sunshine, June freshets, July storms, August dog-days, September fair and equinoxial weather, October sunshine, November frosts, and December snow-flurries, just as long as the "goose-bone prognosticators" and "weather wizards" have scheduled for us, lo these many years, and shall probably continue with the same varied assortment, indefinitely as we have made this our specialty. We, of this particular zone and belt, should become inured to any atmospheric changes that might happen along, as we frequently are called upon to endure a range of temperature covering 40° in twelve hours. Often a cool, clear, sparkling morning develops into a humid, sweltering noon and a hard frost by night with ice and snow by the next morning. We have all the different commodities of weather here found elsewhere and probably in greater abundance; we have ice and snow, sunshine and cloud, rain, hail, dust and mud, zephyrs, breezes, gales and electric storms in greater variety and degree, and in season and out, but withal our weather seems to be the attribute to induce a fine, intellectual, sturdy, broad minded, industrious people, and magnificent, diversified crops. Our seasons are ideal in the broad analysis of the word; accepting

the exceptional "to the rule," just as you have wherever you travel and experience uncomfortable climatic conditions, it is always a very exceptional season and never known to have previously occurred even to the oldest inhabitant. Our winters are long, moderately cold, and usually plenty of snow is very essential here, both for the moisture and certain chemical properties it contains and it also serves as a protection to vegetation. The old saying, "A green Christmas makes a fat graveyard," applies not only to diseases thriving in mild weather, but "to poor crops, more worry, less money, and early grave."

Our springtimes are perfectly delightful when they arrive, although they are usually slow in maturing; have to be coaxed and coddled for six or eight weeks before they seem to be able to thrive. They are either sickly, puny affairs or else cold, sullen and disagreeable, but when they once burst into full bloom they are bewilderingly lovely. The summers are of every kind and fancy, sometimes cool and rainy, sometimes hot and dry, and in the early summer we are visited by frequent and often severe electric storms.

The falls here are considered the loveliest months of all the year; cool, crisp nights and mornings with warm, sunny mid-days, and the autumnal foliage after the first frosts, which usually occur about the middle of September, is a marvel of beauty and color, and continue so until the late fall winds and rains denude the trees. Then there are the Indian summer days of late fall, with their warm, balmy breezes and hazy atmosphere; these are the left-over summer days which the weather man gives us as a sort of peace offering, to conciliate for what is coming.

#### THE TORNADO OF 1873

"Disasters come not singly," is an adage too frequently proven to allow of any argument, as the inhabitants of Independence thought when just two weeks after the big fire of 1873 a terrible storm to the magnitude of a hurricane visited the city and did much damage to property.

The track of the storm extended but four or five miles on either side of Independence—Jesup and Winthrop being outside its destructive force. Many residences and store buildings, some of them just completed, and some in process of erection, after the fire, were completely destroyed; the Methodist Episcopal Church suffered considerable damage and its spire was totally wrecked. Window panes were shattered and chimney tops blown off all over town. But out of town the effects of the wind were more serious and several people suffered injury. East of town the Bethel Church was moved off its foundation and numerous houses and fine large barns were totally wrecked. Mr. Boone was injured, but not seriously, by his house being blown off its foundation. The house of L. J. Whitney, about five miles southwest of Independence, was torn to pieces and the whole family of five were carried several rods away and all were severely though not fatally injured. In Cono Township the new residence of Daniel Matthais was completely demolished and some of the family severely hurt. At Quasqueton several houses and stores were destroyed and at Rowley it was especially severe—the Evans House was blown down and Mr. and Mrs. Evans and a man stopping in the house were badly hurt. The Methodist Episcopal Church was completely destroyed and one of the elevators unroofed. Miles of

fences all over the county were torn to pieces and the damage to property reached a high figure.

The summer of 1874 was remarkable for its long continued and extreme heat and its frequent severe electrical and wind storms.

#### THE CYCLONE OF 1882

On June 22, 1882, Independence was visited by a windstorm so severe that it partook of many of the characteristics of a tornado, in fact, from the newspaper accounts it would appear as the genuine article without any consultation of encyclopedia definitions. It was of such proportions as to call forth a special edition of the Journal printed during the night following the storm and issued early the next morning and like the Big Fire of 1873 has served as a comparative event for all these thirty-two years since its occurrence. This tornado freighted with great destruction to property and leaving death in its path, struck Independence at 5 P. M. and for a time it seemed as though the town was to be utterly and entirely destroyed, to succumb to a fate like Grinnell, and other Iowa towns had previously been entirely destroyed. The course of the storm was southeasterly and no portion of the town escaped its fury while all the country north and west suffered great destruction of farm buildings, orchards and crops.

Independence was crowded with people who had come in to attend Sell's Circus and how they all so miraculously and providentially escaped injury is a great mystery.

The first thing within the city limits to be demolished was the big windmill at the Illinois Central water tanks, and this was torn into a thousand pieces and scattered broadcast. On the flat just south of the water tanks were pitched the circus tents. The wind gently lifted the immense canvass, toyed with it a few seconds, in mid air, and then flung it into a shapeless, tangled mass of ropes, poles and canvass, which proved to be a complete loss to the circus. Three of the canvass men received severe injuries, and a boy who had joined the company at Waterloo only the day previous had an arm broken. Had the storm come a half hour earlier, when the great tent was a living, breathing sea of human beings, great loss of life must have resulted for the air was thick with the flying debris and undoubtedly a panic would have occurred. A cage containing six lions was upset, one of the wheels snapped off and the door wrenched open, the largest lion with a terrible roar bounded out and the others were about to follow when the brave keeper, who was sitting on top of the cage when it was overturned and was precipitated among the debris, with great courage and presence of mind sprang and captured the beast and held him by the mane until a stout rope could be procured. He then tied him to one of the wagons and rushed to prevent the others from escaping, which he was successful in doing. The big lion was much frightened and excited and only with difficulty and by blindfolding him was he finally induced to go back in the cage.

On Chatham Street, all the way from the Illinois Central Depot to Main Street, a fearful wreckage of buildings and trees was left in the wake of the storm. The street was thronged with people and teams returning from the

circus and with the air literally filled with flying boards, bricks and branches, it truly was miraculous how all the people escaped injury.

The damage to property was estimated at fully thirty thousand dollars; about fifty buildings were completely destroyed. One of the heaviest sufferers was John Phillips. The roof of his newly completed block was blown off and the upper stories were badly wrecked. The Insane Asylum sustained serious damage, the immense smokestack, 130 feet in height, was blown down, the work shops wrecked and a considerable portion of the mansard roof torn from the main building. The damage to that building alone was estimated at not less than thirty thousand dollars. The storm seems to have started in Blackhawk County, about seven miles northwest of Jesup and traveled southeasterly. Many fine barns in this portion of the county were totally destroyed and an inestimable damage was done to both fruit and shade trees, a damage that required many years to obliterate. Hundreds of giant oaks that withstood the buffetings of the elements for scores of years were twisted off, their topless shattered trunks standing as mute witnesses of the terrible strength of the monster against which they combated. Southeast of Independence there was no serious damage outside of Sumner Township, beyond this the storm assumed the character of a stiff gale. But the saddest feature of the visitation was the loss of life accompanying it. Two young men were the victims. William Horan, aged eighteen, the son of a widow living on Division Street in the Third Ward, was crushed to death by the house moving off its foundation just as he was descending the stairs into the cellar. The other a youth of fifteen, named Ripke, whose parents resided near Pilot Grove, was visiting at the residence of William Bradley in the south part of town, near the cemetery. Just as the storm had reached the climax of its fury and the building was rocking and swaying with every gust, the boy seeking to escape started to leave the house when it crumbled and fell in, killing him instantly. Mr. Bradley and wife remained in the house and escaped with slight injuries.

As is usual with such storms many peculiar and freakish things occurred.

A few days after the storm, Mr. Edward Cobb, in passing along the east side of his farm just west of town, saw a pine shingle that had been driven clear through an inch fence board, the end protruding an inch on the opposite side from which it entered, the shingle was blown from the roof of his barn some forty rods distant.

Barrels, wash tubs, boilers, and every other conceivable thing were seen circling through the air and were deposited in many ludicrous places. Bricks off chimneys were sent crashing through neighbors' windows and scarcely a house in Independence but was more or less damaged.

For many years, the memory of this storm made the citizens who had gone through the experience pale with apprehension at the appearance of a threatening cloud in the sky. But during all these intervening years, while death and devastation have been carried on the wings of the wind to many a town and hamlet, even in our usually fortunate state, this locality has been singularly free from such visitations.

On Tuesday afternoon, August 16, 1898, a disastrous storm visited the northern part of the county. It was one of the most destructive in years. No lives were lost but the wind and hail combined destroyed a large amount of

property. Local showers of short duration had been experienced for a week preceding the storm. This storm, in its intensity and whirling propensities, reached the proportions of a cyclone. The storm varied in different sections and had no well defined course, but fell hardest in the vicinity of Fairbank. No particular damage was done in the Town of Fairbank but throughout the country in that vicinity farm property and the crops were badly demolished. In the grove north of Fairbank, the track of the storm was clearly defined by a space a couple of rods wide extending through its entire length where the trees were blown down. On either side of this path they were not injured to any extent.

The year 1899 was a record one for calamities in the shape of storms and railroad wrecks. The losses of life and property equalled those accruing from the cause for the previous five years, and in Buchanan County, while we didn't suffer any deaths, there was much destruction of property. On April 20th a terrific electrical storm visited destruction on several fine farms in the county. The fine, large horse farm, on the Martindale Place, just west of Independence, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground with a total loss of all his fine blooded stock, including his valuable fast horses, thoroughbred Jersey herd and calves and some fine blooded hogs, besides all the hay, grain and other valuable contents. The same storm that wrought destruction to the Martindale farm completely destroyed the J. Fernan's large new barn in Homer Township, and this too was filled with stock, hay, grain, machinery and other property. On Sunday afternoon, June 4, 1899, a terrific storm visited Independence and locality—which did considerable damage to Rush Park—the judges' stand was blown off its foundation and the row of stalls from the main entrance to the west corner were piled up in confusion across the street car track. The big barn on the Ed Cobb place—just west of the Rock Island tracks, was moved off its foundation and badly wrecked. This was one of the largest and strongest built barns in the county, all the beams, etc., being put together with bolts instead of spikes, over 3,000 bolts being used in its construction. Had it been built in the ordinary way it would have been a complete ruin. The worst of its fury was expended just west of the city, although the trees in Independence were greatly damaged. The wind and broken branches played havoc with the telephones and telegraph wires and it was impossible to get word from any other locality in this section. When the news did reach Independence from the various parts of the county, it revealed a general visitation of the storm.

The distinguishing feature of this storm was the great area it covered, certainly not less than fifty miles in width and exhibited an almost cyclonic severity over the entire town but was of such short duration (probably ten minutes would cover the time) and being a straight, steady variety and lacking the whirl of the cyclone was responsible for there not being a much greater destruction.

Ten or twelve large barns, thirty wind mills, literally torn to pieces and some houses were destroyed. Many fine groves and orchards throughout the county were utterly destroyed. At Fairbank large barns, wind mills and trees entailed the most severe damage.

The winter of 1899 was one of the coldest on record, the thermometer registering 30 and thirty-two degrees below several times and for two weeks the weather remained extremely cold.

There was very little snow to protect the ground and the water mains which are laid six feet under ground froze and burst in many places and the supply of water was shut off in nearly every house in the city, the mains were thawed out by hydraulic pressure and electricity, this was a new experiment and proved very successful. Wires from the electric light plant were attached and over two hundred feet of frozen water pipes were thawed out in thirty-five minutes. The penetrating frost and pressure of ice and water combined to open a large hole under the dam, through which the water escaped lowering the volume four or five feet above the dam, the ice on the mill pond settled and injured the dam to some extent. In many places the ice which was over four feet thick rested on the river bottom and some places lay in a mass of broken chunks as an evidence of the ferocity and continuance of the cold. The escape of water prevented the mill from grinding. A large force of men were put at work and by cutting through the ice and filling the holes with sacks of dirt were able to check the flow of water.

The extreme cold had also contracted the gas pipes and the gas was leaking at nearly every corner in the center of the city. The supply of gas had to be shut off at the gashouse and people depending on it for lighting and cooking purposes were compelled to make other arrangements. Twice the gashouse took fire and considerable damage was done to the plant, and with the added expense of loss of service, the company suffered considerably.

All during the month of January, 1905, storms were frequent and accompanied by much snow and drifting.

In the first week one of the worst blizzards which has occurred in many years struck this section of the country, the storm started on Monday night with a heavy fall of rain, developed into a blinding snow storm the next day and before noon a strong gale broke forth from the northwest which grew rapidly into a terrific blizzard.

The snow was piled up as high as a man's head in the streets, while in the country, reports of drifts as high as the houses, and impassable highways, came in from every quarter. Telephone and telegraph communications were completely cut off outside and the local service was almost completely demoralized and railroad service was as seriously affected. No trains of any kind reached Independence on the Rock Island from Tuesday afternoon to Thursday morning, when a snow plow pushed by two engines and followed by the regular passenger train passed through here northbound. On the Illinois Central the evening Clipper was hours late and finally reached here with two engines pulling it, and near Jesup were obliged to give up the journey until the snow plow, which had not been used before in years arrived from Waterloo and cleared the track.

Many of the business houses dismissed their clerks at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and all business was suspended after that hour. The city mail carriers were able to make but one trip Wednesday while for the first time since the rural system had been established the carriers didn't attempt to make a trip on Wednesday. On Tuesday their trips were abandoned by the rural carriers before completing their circuit and for several days after the storm the condition of the country roads prevented their reaching certain points on their routes. The street cars were obliged to stop running and were snow bound on Chatham Street, near the postoffice, and were not started until Thursday and



not until Saturday were the tracks west of the Rock Island Depot cleared of their immense drifts so trips could be made to the hospital.

Main Street, especially, presented a novel appearance after the storm and from Chatham Street corner nearly the full length of the block an immense drift nearly six feet high was banked along the north side of the street. It took a great force of men and teams two or three days to clear it for travel. The surplus banks of snow was loaded on racks and dumped on the ice in the river. Regular tunnels were dug through the snow into the stores. Probably the worst sufferers from the storm were the attendants at a funeral at Monti. It was so severe that the undertaker and driver of the hearse had to take refuge at a farmhouse for a couple of days, and finally were compelled to leave the hearse, rode their horses to Winthrop and hired a sleigh and returned to Independence that night. A sleigh ride from Independence to Winthrop shortly after this storm was full of novel experiences, half the sleigh dragged along on bare ground and many places out in the field, owing to impassable drifts as high as a house top monopolizing all the roadway. It took several hours to make this ten-mile trip. This storm just revived the old settlers' memories of that awful storm in the winter of 1861 and of '85 and several other worse ones.

The winter of 1909 was characterized by severe weather and was said to be the coldest winter for thirty-one years, and 1912 was another severe one. On two occasions the thermometer registered 32° below zero and for six weeks there was no suggestion of a thaw.

Another of the most unusual freaks of weather which this climate can boast transpired in the spring of 1910 when after a very mild winter along about the last of February the weather became immoderately warm for that time of year, the snow had completely disappeared and in the first week of March the trees began to bud, and all vegetation to spring into life. Inside a week or two all the fruit trees were gorgeous with blossom and never did they seem to be so completely covered with fragrant bloom. Even the late spring flowers had begun to bloom, and the air was as soft and balmy as is May weather usually.

But alas, in accord with all the prophetic misgivings of the weather prognosticator and the signs of the goose-bones and Zodiacs, the warm "summer sunshine" in March was a weather breeder, and sure enough a killing frost occurred which completely destroyed all vegetation. The leaves dropped all their foliage and everything looked like death and destruction, but the strangest part of this unusual season was that the trees recuperated and again put forth leaves, and although the foliage was not as dense, it was a remarkable show of nature's vitality and recuperative power. People had anticipated a leafless, shadeless summer, and were agreeably disappointed.

Buchanan County has had its share of tragedies, many accidental deaths and many self inflicted murders, suicides, drownings, and many by fire.

One of the earliest of these happened in July, 1858, when a man by the name of Casper Wright engaged a Canadian, owning a span of horses and wagon to take himself, his wife and his sister, a young girl about eleven years of age, to Fairbank on a visit to some friends. They reached Otter Creek about 6 o'clock on Sunday morning and, attempting to ford it, the box floated off and the whole party were soon struggling in the swollen and rapid stream. A man

who saw them passing his house toward the creek heard their cries and hastened to the ford, arriving in less than five minutes but not in time to even see a single person of the party. He did not warn them because, as the creek was generally known to be dangerous at that stage of water, he did not think of their attempting to drive through it at that place. Great difficulty was experienced in trying to rescue the bodies, one of which, the Canadian, was not recovered for several days.

Another frightful harvest of death occurred on the morning of March 9, 1874, when the dwelling house of George L. King, situated in the Third Ward where the residence of George O. Corlis is located. The house was consumed by fire and in it perished Mrs. Morris, aged seventy-four, the mother of Mrs. King; Mrs. King, Emma Bell, a daughter, aged fourteen; and Frank, a son aged ten years.

The fire originated in the kitchen which was entered by a door at the bottom of the stairs leading to the sleeping rooms above. Mr. King was aroused at about 4.30 A. M. by the daughter who entered his room saying that the house was full of smoke. Hastily dressing and descending, he opened the kitchen door when the pent up flames burst out in fury. He attempted to return to the rescue of his family but the raging flames filled the stairway and after repeated attempts he was compelled to desist. All efforts proved futile and the four perished in the flames. This unprecedented calamity in a small town like Independence cast a gloom over the whole community and great sympathy was manifested for the bereaved and distracted father and husband.

One of the most heartrending accidents that ever happened in Buchanan County occurred in August, 1898, when four young sons of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Foy, of Buffalo Township, were burned to death on August 17, 1898. There were eight children in the family. The parents, to gratify a whim of the boys had, a short time previous, consented that four of the boys, Thomas, aged eighteen years; Louis, aged seventeen; George, aged thirteen; and Frank, aged ten, might sleep in the barn for a time. Wednesday night was to have been their last night in the barn and a little after 2 o'clock in the morning the parents were awakened and looking out discovered flames shooting out from the roof, doors and windows of the barn.

Mr. Foy rushed out but the whole interior was a fiery furnace. He shouted to them until hoarse but got no answer. If not already dead, they were doubtless overcome by heat and smoke. Rescue was out of the question. Desperate in her sorrow the mother would have rushed into the flames after her boys had she not been held back.

There was absolutely no information as to the origin of the fire nor could any one advance any satisfactory theory. There had been slight showers of rain at about that hour of the night which led many to believe that the fire was caused by lightning striking the barn, but no one could remember having heard any thunder during the night. Whatever the cause, it was evident from the position in which the bodies were lying that the boys had no part in it themselves.

No words could express the agony of the bereaved parents who were called upon to part in a single night and in an awful manner with their four bright,

manly young boys. The only boy surviving to them was a crippled brother of the deceased lads.

The barn destroyed contained a large amount of property. The mows were filled with new mown hay, besides over a thousand bushels of oats, barley and all the farm tools and machinery, five horses and a cow. The only thing in the barn that escaped was one horse which broke loose and ran out.

One theory, and probably the right one, was that spontaneous combustion was the cause of the fire.

Within a year, from 1903 to 1904, four Illinois Central Railroad men who resided at or near Independence, while employed in the discharge of their duties were accidentally killed, three of them between their headquarters at Waterloo and Independence, a distance of only twenty-five miles.

They were Engineer Fred J. Stoneham, Fireman Daniel J. Bantz, Fireman Capt. B. Anderson and Fireman William R. Skelley.

On April 13, 1904, W. R. Skelley was killed at Scales Mound, Illinois; he was buried beneath three cars of freight in a head-on collision and in just a year and a half after, on September 17, 1905, John E. Skelley, his brother, was killed at Dubuque. He was flagman on an extra on the Illinois Central and in going between trains which were switching, stumbled or caught his foot and was run over and killed.

Another brother, Dennis Skelley, an engineer on a switch engine in the Illinois Central freight yards at Dubuque, lost a leg about two years before while alighting from a moving train. Two other brothers were also in the employ of the I. C. R. R. Co. when the first brother was killed, but as their runs took them past the scene of their brother's death, they both resigned their positions.

#### RIVERS

The streams of Buchanan County, paradoxical as it may seem, both drain and water the land, as is not the case in all countries. But drainage is the principal object of the streams here, for, important as are numerous living water courses, in a stock raising and farming country, still, in a territory where the average annual rain fall is forty inches, and where water is so accessible through wells at a depth of only comparatively few feet, if there were not a sufficient slope, and a sufficient number of streams to afford timely escape for the surplus waters, the whole surface of the country would be one continuous marsh, which would necessitate drainage ditches, as in some countries. As it is, there are comparatively few marshes in this county, and these are now being tilled and drained, and generally, prove to be superior soil for cultivation, and, likewise, there are probably fewer acres, which except in unusually dry seasons, are always seriously affected by drought, than in most counties of the state.

Farmers all over the country are now beginning to see the advantage of tilled land and thousands of acres are being improved this way every year.

This county is unusually well drained and watered, having within its limits some eight distinct streams with numerous branches.

The general trend of the land in Buchanan County, like that of the state, is from the northwest to the southeast. Its principal valley, that of the

Wapsipinicon River, stretches diagonally through its center, in the direction stated, receiving and carrying off all its waters; with the following exceptions: Those of Jefferson and Westburg, and a part of Perry, Sumner, and Homer townships, in the southwest corner of the county, whose streams, Spring, Lime, and Bear Creek, flow into the Cedar River; while those of a part of Madison and Fremont townships in the northeast corner, make their way into the Maquoketa River.

The Wapsipinicon, our largest river, rises near the northern boundary of the state, probably in Mitchell and Howard counties, and drains not a very wide but certainly one of the richest valleys in the state. Being fed by innumerable springs and flowing over a pebbly and rocky bed, its waters are clear, cold and sparkling. Its average declination is some two and one-half feet to the mile and although not tempestuous in its descent, yet furnishes a number of excellent water powers at convenient places. Its banks, never bluffly, are yet so uniformly elevated as to preclude an overflow of the adjacent lands, except at times of most unusual flood, which event has occurred several times in intervals of from ten to twelve years, but only at such points where the banks are below the average height (and they, being almost entirely lined with an outer opening of rocks, are not washed out, but in a minor degree). The Wapsipinicon, undoubtedly, is one of the prettiest small streams in the state and as attractive as any in the entire country considering its size. But it probably affords more pleasure for fishing, swimming and boating than many a larger one. The banks along its winding, circuitous course are lined with natural timber, splendid oaks, elms, maples, cottonwoods, the wild plum, apple, and cherry trees, grape, woodbine and wild hops. Ferns and wild flowers grow in rank profusion to the water's edge; all kinds of lilies and flag fill its banks, bayous, and ponds, and afford a delightful shade and fragrance throughout its entire course. Nowhere could you find a more enchanting spot for recreation and pleasure on a lazy summer afternoon. If we take a boat and leisurely follow up the meandering course of this river to the little town of Littleton, in the northern part of Perry Township, we find at that point the principal fork made by the river in this county. The main branch of the Wapsipinicon approaches the village from the west, having entered the county at the northwest corner of Perry Township; while the stream with which it forks, very respectable in size and volume of water, named the Little Wapsipinicon, flows down from the north, having come in from the County of Fayette about a mile and a half east of the northwest corner of Fairbank Township, flowing directly south until it unites with the main river at Littleton. The Little Wapsipinicon receives several small streams after entering this county. The largest of these is Buck Creek which flows into it in section 32 of Fairbank Township.

If we retrace the course of the river down from the forking of the Little Wapsie and the Wapsie, and note the streams that flow into it, we find many small branches scarcely more than brooks, too small and insignificant to even possess the dignity of a name, at least no recorded names, but nevertheless fulfill their mission and contribute their mite to swell the waters of Old Father Wapsie, who in turn, carries it on to the Mighty Father of Waters.

The next stream we come to on our journey south is a fine stream of considerable size flowing from the north through Hazleton and Washington townships, joining the Wapsie in section 19 of the latter township. This is Otter Creek, one of the most beautiful streams and more copiously wooded than any other except the Wapsie itself. In following up this branch of the Wapsie family, we find four small streams emptying into it, all unnamed on the map, three of these are quite small, flowing from the east and joining the creek in Hazleton Township. The fourth is of larger proportions, rising west of Otter Creek and like its sister creek in Fayette County, flows almost due south through the western part of Hazleton Township and most of the way parallel with the creek until it finally empties into it in section 6 of Washington Township.

Resuming our journey down stream, we come to two small creeks which empty into the Wapsie about a mile apart, the first in section 28 and the second in section 34 of Washington Township about a half mile north of Independence. These streams are not named on the map but the one nearest the city is called Harter's Creek. They both rise in the northeastern corner of this township and flow nearly south.

Just south of Independence another creek empties into the river in section 3 of what was at first Summer Township but is now a part of Washington. It also rises in Washington in the northeast corner and flows in a southwesterly direction. We come upon two other little streams so small that they are of very little consequence, but being placed on the map, should receive mention, the first rises in section 31 of Byron and the second in section 1 of the addition to Washington. They are each about two miles in length, flow southwest and empty into the Wapsie, in section 10 of Summer.

Still passing on down the river, we see no entering stream worthy of note, till about seven or eight miles below those last mentioned, we come to the mouth of Pine Creek, not more than two miles above Quasqueton, in section 28, Liberty Township. This is a fine stream flowing from the north like nearly all those which empty into the Wapsie.

It rises nearly in the center of Buffalo Township and flows almost directly south through Byron and Liberty.

It receives many small tributaries, mostly through its left bank like the Wapsie and all the other streams of the county. It is about fourteen miles in length.

But a few rods from the mouth of Pine Creek is that of Halstead's Run. From the mouth of Wash Creek which is about one-half mile above Quasqueton, to the point where the Wapsie leaves the county, we can count, by close inspection, seven tributaries all but two of which flow in from the left or east bank of the river. The larger of the two, called Sand Creek, in the west bank, is the largest, entering the river from the west in its entire course through the county. Yet it is only about four miles in length, rising in the western part of Cono and joining the river in section 14 of that township.

The largest and the last of these lower tributaries, on the east side of the river, is about eight miles in length, rising in section 4 of Newton, flowing almost directly south through the center of Newton nearly to the county line, then turning abruptly to the west, entering the river in section 31 of the same

township. Buffalo Creek, the second largest stream in the county, and a tributary of the Wapsie, though it does not enter the river within the limits of the county, flows in a very straight course about three miles east of Pine Creek in the same southeasterly direction and almost parallel with Pine Creek and the Wapsie. This stream is bordered by a very narrow belt of timber and with the exception of the Wapsie is the longest in the county. It rises in the southern part of Fayette County; two branches, the east and west Buffalo, enter Buchanan in sections 3 and 5 of Buffalo Township, continue this course parallel about two miles apart until the east branch makes an abrupt turn to the west at almost right angles in section 31 of Madison Township, and continues in that course for almost two miles, when it joins the west branch.

It flows through Byron, a corner of Fremont, Middlefield, a corner of Newton and leaves the county in section 13 of the last-named township.

In the northeastern part of the county, in Madison Township, we find a stream of considerable size flowing for about six miles through the corner of Madison, entering in section 5 and going out in section 24. This stream is the south branch of the Maquoketa River; it rises in the southern part of Fayette County and flows through the city of Manchester, in Delaware County.

South of the stream last described, and nearly straight east of Independence, we perceive another and much smaller one, flowing in the same general direction, through prairies and fields, entirely destitute of native timber. It rises in section 4 of Fremont Township, flows some nine miles in a sort of circuitous course and passes out through section 36 of the same township into Delaware County. It is called Prairie Creek in this county.

Turning our attention to the west and southwest of the county map, beyond the watershed of the Wapsipinicon, we shall see several small streams flowing in a southwesterly direction and also get a glimpse of the Cedar River, which just touches this county at its southwest corner of Jefferson Township. Of these small streams, the two that we see directly west, in Westburg township, are a couple of small branches that unite to form Spring Creek, which lies wholly in Blackhawk County. The first one of these is just south of Jesup. Its source is Big Spring in section 6 of Westburg. Passing south, the next that we come to is East Branch of Spring Creek, rising in section 16, Westburg, flowing southwest and leaving the county at section 6, Jefferson. Then comes a stream, unnamed, rising in section 9 of Jefferson and passing out at 31 of the same. East of this is Lime Creek, which rises in section 2, Westburg, flows nearly straight south through that township, makes a slight circuit to the east and then to the west, and passes through Jefferson, leaving it at section 33.

The last stream which is to be described is Bear Creek, which rises in section 17, of Sumner, makes a circuit quite similar to Lime Creek, passes through Homer, enters Jefferson at section 25 and leaves it at 36.

#### NAMES

Before we leave the subject of Buchanan streams, however, we ought to tell something of their names.

All names are more or less significant, and it is probable that no one was ever given without there being in the mind of the christener some definite reason

why that particular one and not another was assigned to the object named. The reason may never be announced, or if once made known, may become forgotten; or it may be thought too trivial to remember.

But the fact remains that every object named must have both a namer and a reason for its name, and the reason may be remembered long after the person who bestowed the name has been forgotten. Thus it is probable that the streams Buck, Bear, Otter and Buffalo received their names from these several different species of animals inhabiting this region, although there is no definite knowledge of the facts. Other creeks are named from other special features. Pine Creek undoubtedly got its name on account of the white pines which grew along its banks, but have long since disappeared. They were found mostly in Liberty Township and in few other places in this county have native pines been found except along this stream.

Lime Creek was named so on account of the limestone rock which lines its banks, and although this is not a special feature with this stream alone, yet it is most abundant there.

The personal names of several of the streams are those of prominent individuals who lived in that locality. The Maquoketa and Wapsipinicon are both Indian names, Wapsipinicon signifying white root, as white potato, and undoubtedly each has its story connected with it. We have found the latter name spelled Wabsepicon in the early official documents. It formerly was two words and afterwards, for convenience, was contracted into one name.

The legend woven around the name of Wapsipinicon is as beautiful and attractive a little romance as is found in literature and is well worth a place in history. So we will record it with but little variation of speech. It is similar in many respects to that beautiful Indian legend of Longfellow's "Hiawatha." Wapsie was a young Indian brave, as stalwart and noble, we imagine, as the noted Hiawatha. Pinicon was a beautiful Indian maiden, as lovely and winsome as the Laughing Minnehaha. They were children of the same race but of different tribes. We suppose (for the location favors the supposition and there is nothing in the legend to contradict) that Wapsie was one of the warlike Sioux, and that Pinicon belonged to the equally warlike and hostile tribe of Sac, and, as fate willed it, they met, perhaps by chance, and cupid, as agile and occupied with his love-bow in prehistoric days as at present, sent an arrow straight from Wapsie's flashing eye to pierce the susceptible heart of Pinicon and both succumbed to fate—they fell violently in love and suffered the consequences. Of course, there was strong objections on both sides but love laughs at tribal prejudices and these ill-fated lovers, both of whom inherited the strong, unyielding blood from a long line of chieftains, which but increased the heroic intensity of their ardor, loved and loved with a desperation that even death could not sever. Then Pinicon's father discovered that his daughter had listened with favor to the addresses of a scion of a hostile tribe. His wrath knew no bounds and he sternly forbade her to have any further communication with the presumptuous and impudent young warrior, or even to think of him again as a desirable or possible suitor for her hand. But love is stronger and more enduring even than law and the lovers still found means of communicating their passion, but with a caution which entirely eluded the parent's vigilant eye.

At length, weary of the long frustration of their hopes and desires and despairing of gaining parental consent, they determined upon an elopement. Pinicon, though not wishing openly to deceive her father, yet did not hesitate to let him believe that she had yielded to his wishes and given up her ill-starred attachment.

By this he was led to relax his accustomed vigilance and so set out upon an exciting hunt for several days, without leaving anyone specially charged with the duty of guarding his daughter. The faithful Pinicon contrived to inform her devoted Wapsie that a favorable opportunity was afforded for the fulfillment of their plans and Wapsie hastened to avail himself of this long-desired chance to bear his beautiful bride away to his northern home, there to reign as mistress of his tepee, to be mother of his little papooses, there to dwell in peace and contentment and be leader among his tribe. This was his dream, but fortune-tellers say that dreams go by contraries and surely Wapsie's dreams played havoc. Ill fate controlled him as with an evil charm. On the very evening, just as they were preparing flight, Pinicon's father returned from the chase, tired, hungry, and irritable, and upon finding the young chief in his wigwam he proceeded to tongue-lash both him and his daughter with unquenchable fury. The brave Wapsie, though very much surprised, was not at all frightened and instead of quarreling with the old chieftain departed in sullen and abject despair, leaving behind a scene as tragic as death to young lovers, an irascible and vehement parent and a speechless, grief-stricken daughter. Suffice to say, that when his anger had spent itself, apprehending no further trouble, at least for the present, he began to feel the pangs of hunger, and knowing with what skill his daughter could prepare a slab of venison, he ordered her to dry her tears and cook his meal. He was very tired and after he had eaten his fill of the tender and juicy meat he lay down in his blanket and slept the heavy sleep of exhaustion. The dusky Pinicon, with eyes red from weeping, also lay down, but not to sleep. She thought of many things, and the vision of the trysting place, where she and her lover had so often met, came persistently to haunt her, and finally led her to believe that there she would find him waiting for her. Was it presentiment or was it what we now term mental telepathy or suggestion that prompted her? However, she arose, and wrapping her blanket about her proceeded to that sacred spot, now hallowed with precious memories. If she found him not, still, it would afford her a melancholy pleasure to be there alone, as she had so often been, and she could easily return to the wigwam before her father awoke. It was but little more than a mile, partly through the oak woods and partly across the prairies, and to a fleet-footed Indian maiden this 2 or 2½ miles was but a short span and could be easily and quickly traversed. The October moon was shining brightly and as soon as she came to the edge of the grove and in sight of the huge rock beneath a spreading oak, where they were accustomed to sit in the deepening twilight, bewailing their misfortunes or discussing plans for the future, she beheld a dark object beneath it, which she recognized as the form of her lover, the noble Wapsie. Almost at the same instant his acute ear and alert eye detected a crackling noise and a fleeting shadow among the oaks, which he at first suspected might be a deer and which proved to be one, his dear, Pinicon (with acknowledgment that this pun is not original). He flew to meet her and clasped her



in his arms, exclaiming, "Not even death shall ever part us more. Let us fly to my northern home, where parental tyranny can never separate us and we can dwell in peace and harmony until the Great Spirit, Gitchie Manitou, calls us."

While they were engaged in conversation, planning a beautiful, soul-satisfying future, they heard stealthy footsteps in the distance; turning, they caught glimpses of several skulking, shadowy forms approaching. Pinicon immediately recognized them as her father and three braves of the tribe.

She was panic stricken and clung to her lover, but soon her courage returned and she it was who proposed that they fly to the river and die rather than be separated.

The stream was about a mile to the west of them and thither they ran in desperate flight, as though it were a haven of life rather than death. But their pursuers were fleet of foot than the pursued—Wapsie somewhat retarded in his flight by having to assist his beloved, Pinicon, through the tangle of underbrush.

When the fugitives reached the river's bank the pursuing chiefs were only about a rod behind them.

There was no time for reconsideration or tragic farewells or even the Indian death song, although Wapsie was said to have been the best soloist of his tribe; the murmuring river was singing their funeral chant. Without a word of reproach, and only a backward glance of mingled despair and forgiveness at the angry faces glaring at them in the moonlight, the devoted lovers clasped in each other's arms and plunged into the stream.

The enraged father reached the bank only to behold them struggling in the water, sinking and rising and finally sinking. At once his anger was changed to forgiveness and torturing grief. In vain he called and called them to come back, and when, for the last time, they rose to the surface and cast a last lingering look of pity and love at the poor old grief-stricken chief, weeping on the bank, they sank in the engulfing waters to rise no more. The broken hearted chief never recovered from the shock and loss of his beloved daughter. He never smiled again and a melancholia took possession of his mind. The medicine men could do nothing to arrest his malady and before spring bloomed again his spirit had taken its flight to the Happy Hunting Grounds, where he would meet his children and live in peace and love forever.

We have followed an inspiration to put this legend into verse after the style of Hiawatha—so with due apologies to Longfellow, we present:

Once there lived an Indian maiden  
By the lovely name of Pinicon,  
Daughter of an old Sac chieftain;  
Lovely was she as her name was,  
Sweet and kind and gentle mannered,  
Lived she in her father's wigwam.  
Watchful was she of his comfort—  
Tended all the fireside duties,  
Made the fires and spread the blankets,  
Cooked the fish and fowl and deer-meat;  
Skilled was she in woman's handicraft,

Wove fine blankets in fancy patterns,  
Made the chieftain's moccasins and headgear,  
Strung the beads and sewed on feathers;  
Ever mindful of her duties,  
Loved by all who ever knew her.  
And the old chief loved her dearly,  
And would keep her ever near him;  
Guarded her with constant vigil,  
With a selfish, jealous passion,  
But as faith doth often will it  
Love goes far to meet its soul mate,  
Even though in hostile campfires.  
So this maiden's heart went roving,  
As she wandered from her fireside  
From the wigwams of her father;  
Met by chance a gallant warrior,  
Of the fierce and warlike Siouans,  
And in spite of fends and warnings  
'Gainst this tribe of bitter enemies,  
Cupid sent his arrow darting,  
Pierced the hearts of youth and maiden—  
Fell in love upon the instant;  
But their love proved tragic bitter,  
For the old chief scorned their passion,  
Threatened and coerced his daughter.  
Stern, relentless, never yielding,  
Watched her as a prison convict;  
But when Sac Chief goes a-hunting,  
Wapsie seeks his faithful Pinicon  
In the tepee of her father—  
In the land of fiercest foemen—  
There to woo and win his squaw-wife.  
Just when things were looking pleasant,  
And his prospects seemed to brighten,  
Home returned the irate father,  
Stormed and fumed to find his daughter  
Entertaining hostile chieftain  
From that hated tribe of Siouans;  
Raged and raved and threatened vengeance,  
Drove the stranger from his hearthstone,  
Told him never more to enter;  
Keep his fireside with the warriors  
Of his clan of treacherous squaw-men  
Or his scalp would then be dangling  
From the belt of Old Sac Chieftain.  
Wapsie stalked from out the wigwam,  
Backward looked but never answered,  
Silent kept his tongue from anger

From the barbed and cruel language  
Which would hurt the gentle maiden;  
Proud, serene, and little frightened  
At the old chief's threatened torments,  
Forth he strode with air majestic,  
Not with hate nor yet with anguish.  
Faith had he that time would serve him—  
Faith that Pinicon would love him  
To the end of life and longer;  
To the land beyond the boundaries,  
Where all things are free and "neutral."  
Pinicon, with speechless horror,  
Saw the departing of her lover;  
Saw her Wapsie leave forever,  
Made a silent vow in protest,  
Vowed to love him and to follow  
If it be to death or sorrow.  
Then the chieftain bade his daughter  
Cook his food, and fry his venison,  
Which he ate with famished hunger;  
Ate until his hunger vanished.  
Then he called for pipe and smoke-weed—  
Smoked in silence—sat and pondered,  
Smoked until his anger smothered;  
Wrapped himself up in his blanket,  
Laid him down to peaceful slumbers—  
Dreams of rich and fruitful hunting,  
Fallow deer and bear and bison  
In great droves of countless numbers.  
Dreams of fishing rare and bounteous,  
Pike and trout and bass and pickerel—  
Strings of them which grew so lengthy  
That he could not lift or number.  
While he slept with dreams that soothed him,  
Pinicon lay down to torments,  
Thinking sadly of her lover,  
Wondering if she'd ever see him.  
Haunted with a desperate longing,  
Up she rose, wrapped in her blanket,  
Stole she forth in quest of solace  
To the place where oft she'd met him;  
Sought the comforts of surroundings  
Fraught with memories, sad and tender;  
Sought the spot now hallowed, sacred,  
Where their love-vows oft they'd plighted.  
Fleet of step and light as feather,  
And with heart that sped before her,  
Urged as by some unseen spirit,

Came she to the place of trysting;  
Saw a form, beloved, familiar,  
By the moonlight, soft and silvery,  
Clearly outlined every figure,  
Recognized her faithful lover  
Sitting there in deep dejection,  
Though his mind was steeped in sorrow.  
Yet his eye was like the eagle  
And his ear was keen and active,  
And he sensed some one approaching,  
Knew his loved one at a distance.  
Quick he sprang to go and meet her,  
Clasped her in his arms with fervor,  
Poured out words of love and passion;  
Eloquent his tongue with love themes,  
Ardent grew with vows and pleadings,  
Thus he wooed the Indian maiden:  
"Come with me, oh lovely Pinicon,  
To the land of warlike chieftains;  
To the land of Sioux brave warriors,  
There to dwell in peace and plenty.  
Be the ruler of my wigwam,  
Be my starlight—moonlight—firelight,  
Be the sunlight of my people.  
Thus our tribes may be united,  
Thus old feuds may be forgotten  
And old wounds be healed forever."  
Let this peace between our peoples  
Blot out memories of warfare,  
Many years of strife and bloodshed,  
Let it grow and last forever.  
You will be the bond of friendship  
That unites our hearts in union,  
And that clasps our hands more closely.  
Let your heart speak, lovely Pinicon."  
And she seemed by far more lovely  
As she stood in thoughtful silence,  
In the silvery October moonlight  
Neither willing nor reluctant.  
Then she went to noble Wapsie,  
Softly took her place beside him,  
While she said—and eager said it,  
"I will follow you my husband.  
As unto the bow the cord is  
So unto the man is woman,  
Though she bends him, she obeys him,  
Though she draws him, yet she follows;  
Useless each without the other."

Thus the brave and youthful Wapsie  
Spoke his mind and on it pondered.  
Then with ardent look and shyness,  
Put his arm about the maiden.  
'Bout the form of yielding Pinicon,  
"I will lead you by the North Star,  
Guided by its fixed location,  
Far away to peaceful countries,  
To the wigwams of my fathers."  
Thus he spoke, and as he uttered,  
Came faint sounds of angry voices,  
Faint, yet growing much distincter.  
Then they turned and soon discovered  
Forms pursuing in the darkness.  
The maiden's father and three others,  
Bent upon a frightful mission,  
Bound to catch the youthful culprits,  
Imprison the maid and kill her lover.  
Kill the brave and noble Wapsie,  
"'Tis my father!" cried the maiden,  
"To the river, let our course be ;  
Let us die before surrender!"  
Spake the faithful hearted Pinicon,  
To the west their course renewing,  
With the chieftains still pursuing,  
Ran they swiftly as the reindeer,  
Came up to the raging river,  
With the chieftains close behind them.  
Waited not for word or death song,  
Though this Wapsie was a singer,  
Best of all his tribe of Warriors.  
With a backward glance of pleading,  
With despair upon their faces,  
Clasped they in each other's strong arms,  
Leaped into the raging torrents,  
Sank and rose and struggled fiercely.  
But the waves, the mighty wau waus  
Fought with strength their feeble efforts,  
Fought with vengeance to subdue them,  
Fought and conquered—these intruders,  
Laughed and rippled o'er their victims.  
And the father saw these ripples,  
Saw, and anguish rent his heart-strings.  
"Bank, come back, oh lovely Pinicon,  
Come, forgive your broken father,  
Come, oh Wapsie, with your fair bride,  
Come and I'll bestow my blessing,  
Give you trophies, skins and wampum,

Give you half my lands and wigwam,  
Make you chief among my people—  
Call you son, and as a brother,  
You shall share my heart and tepee.”  
Called and called the pleading father,  
In his sorrow and his anguish,  
Called and but the echoes answered,  
Came they back to taunt and mock him,  
And, the surging of the river,  
Lapping, roaring, ever onward,  
Was the only sound that smote him,  
And the rippling of the waters  
Seemed to laugh and rudely taunt him,  
While the foam upon its bosom  
Seemed to be a rare resemblance,  
Like their souls, in color, texture,  
Light and airy, riding billows,  
On the river's muddy waters,  
Far away to distant countries,  
To the oceans mighty waters,  
There to find their longed-for heaven,  
There to meet their long-lost kindred,  
There to wait for coming kinsmen,  
And the mighty old Sioux chieftain,  
Broken hearted and despairing,  
Never smiled, and melancholia  
Chained his mind in icy fetters  
And no drug, or herb or medicine  
Of this malady could cure him,  
And the spring had not yet broken  
Through the snows and ice of winter  
Till his soul its flight had taken,  
To the land of happy hunters,  
To the land of deer and bison,  
To the land where all is peaceful,  
Naught of strife or wars or discord,  
To the home of happy lovers,  
There to live and love forever  
In the wigwams of their fathers,  
And the river bore his birch-bark,  
While his soul in phantom specter  
Sat and guided without paddle,  
Oar, or wheel or shining rudder,  
Down the river, through the rapids,  
To the mighty Mississippi,  
Father of those many waters,  
Thence on down into the ocean,  
And the words which made his death song

Were the names of those two lovers,  
Noble warrior, lovely maiden,  
Young chief Wapsie, dusky Pinicon,  
Ringing ever through his conscience,  
Ring clear, in song triumphant,  
With its sweet, euphonious cadence,  
With its melody persistent,  
In the music of the waters,  
In the echoes of its sound waves,  
In the call of beast or wild fowl.  
River of such tragie happenings,  
River of such noble passions,  
Named of each ill fated lover,  
Sing their death song, sweet and haunting,  
Sing it through the countless eons,  
Sing it days and years and ages,  
Sing it while the sands are sifting,  
Sing that name of wondrous meaning,  
The enchanted Wapsipinicon.

The features of every landscape are forever changing either through natural causes or through the instrumentality of man.

The course of all streams fluctuate more or less depending largely on the condition and kind of soil through which they flow.

When rains are heavy, long continued and covering an extended area, the rivers rise, overflow their banks, make gullies in them, wash out dams, bridges and other artificial structures and scatter debris along the banks and quite often at these unusual flood times, the river changes its course completely.

The Wapsipinicon has been known to do all of these things, and, while we are not subjected to this aggravation very often, still, every few years the river gets on a rampage and does considerable damage.

The Wapsipinicon flows through a soil that is for the most part sandy and therefore drifts and shifts changing the course of the river, and making it very difficult to bridge in some places where bridges are very necessary. History tells of a place of this character just south of Independence now known as the South Bridge.

The river before reaching this point, after flowing almost due south through the city, makes a sudden deflection toward the east and after the first bridge was built the stream changed its bed to such an extent, and the bank had been so washed out at the southern extremity of the bridge that it was necessary to cross the river some forty rods below, although the road would have to turn that distance out of its direct course in order to reach the new crossing, and so this was done at that time, when they were building the bridge which still stands.

Another decided change which the Wapsie has made is at the place, about a half mile north of the second or Rock Island Railroad Bridge, known as the cut off. Here the river, flowing in a southeasterly direction, makes a wide semi-circle cut to the east, and then resumes its former direction. Mr. Charles

Putney appreciating this waste of valuable time and labor on a day's fishing excursion conceived the idea to cut a channel through the diameter of this so called semi-circle and save considerable hard rowing, shallow water and sand bars—so a space was dug large enough for a row-boat to pass through, that was some thirty odd years ago—and today that cut off is the main channel of the river and no one navigates the other channel except to seek secluded nooks for fishing and when the water is high, for a longer trip.

The Wapsipinicon is a river of great contrasts which could scarcely be realized when one sees it in midsummer, shrunk so low that a child could easily wade across it in many places and the entire stream being used in the mill flume, and then note the contrast in its condition in the early spring or after a January thaw, or a June freshet. You could hardly imagine a greater change from the clear, quiet, slow-flowing stream, to the raging, angry, muddy torrent which tears along leaving destruction and debris along its path. Nevertheless it is a very picturesque and awe-inspiring spectacle.

The earliest account of the river's floods that we are able to find was in August, 1858, but undoubtedly there were many previous to this, as there have been since, although it has never been known to be so high, but once within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, and that in 1851—seven years before. The high water of 1858 was caused by the heavy, continued rains which almost flooded the entire country through which the Wapsie and its tributaries flow.

On Saturday, July 31st, the water began raising and within twenty-four hours' time it raised fifteen feet. It attained its highest mark at 11 A. M. Sunday and then began to slowly recede. The water overflowed Main Street at the east end of the bridge, as far as S. S. Allen's book store and a swift current flowed between it and the P. C. Wilcox dry goods store.

Luckily some of the citizens, thinking it might be the regular periodical flood, on Saturday night when the water began to rise and look threatening hauled about thirty loads of stone onto the bridge and on Sunday morning about fifty more and owing to this fore-thought, it withstood the torrents and was about as good as ever with the exception of a few missing planks and some of the railing.

No particular damage was done to any buildings, although several were flooded and two saloons were temporarily deserted by their occupants but "no case" of watered stock or adulterated booze was found on the court records.

On Tuesday the water had fallen until people could wade across the street to the bridge, and this the west siders were forced to do. It was a laughable sight, so history states, to see the county judge, lawyers and other dignitaries roll up their pants and wade in like school boys. At Quasqueton, the bridge was swept away and considerable damage was done to the crops, all along the river banks.

Mr. Heman Morse lost his entire wheat crop which was cut and bound in sheaves ready for stacking. Again in the spring of 1862 the dissolving of the immense amount of snow precipitated another flood which although not so disastrous as the one of 1858 carried off the bridge at Littleton, a structure but recently built at a cost of \$1,000 and considered strong and substantial, the other having been swept away by the flood of 1858. No damage to speak



of was done at Independence only the water, being eight or ten feet deep below the dam, as usual over-flowed the east end of the bridge for a few days and the S. C. & D. R. R. bridge was slightly impaired.

Then again in the spring of 1865, the streams swollen by heavy snow and the terrific rains caused the most unusual and destructive floods of which we have record.

“Great Freshet—Part of Independence Bridge given away. A complete sweep expected,” is the starting headlines of an item in the Guardian of March 22, 1865. Then below this “The bridge gone.” The heavy snow of the preceding winter followed by a down pour of rain for about thirty-six hours precipitated this flood when carried off the bridge on Tuesday afternoon, March 21, 1865. On Monday night one length of the bridge had given way and fallen into the water and held there by one end. The water was so high that there was no declivity over the dam. Crowds of people stood watching anxiously for what might happen, and momentarily expecting the crash—at last the expected happened—at 3 P. M. Tuesday it went out. The ice came crashing down and took what had previously withstood the raging, dashing torrent. It came up to the lower windows of the stores. Tupper’s new store containing a harness shop went down with the bridge. It was a great inconvenience to business men as many whose business was on the east side resided on the west.

This flood did great damage throughout the county along all the river courses. The bridge and dam at Quasqueton together with the saw and grist-mill of Mr. Pratt were swept away. At Littleton, the beautiful new bridge, and twenty-five feet of the dam and all the tressel work of the logway to the saw mill had been washed out. Fairbank, too, shared the general ruin—losing its bridge, and a new mill, all these on the Wapsie. Then the bridge over Otter Creek at Otterville, and another farther north were demoralized by the torrent. Buchanan County had hardly a bridge of any importance left. This was a terrible blow to the county’s finances, coming so soon after the depletion of the treasury by the safe robbery. It was a most disheartening state of affairs, especially since the citizens had voted down the loan—but the citizens of Independence were not to be thwarted—they called a public meeting at the courthouse to take immediate measures for constructing a new bridge and also concerning temporary arrangements for crossing the river. A public subscription was taken which resulted in \$500 being contributed and a free ferry was immediately installed with Mr. Slack as captain. The committee contracted to have a boat built. It was 40 feet long and could accommodate three teams, as many as 160 people at a time rode over and sometimes 200 teams a day. The cable was 380 feet long. On April 1st, the new ferryboat was launched with crowds of people and teams waiting passage. The only difficulty to be foreseen was the lack of sufficient water in dry weather, but most assuredly there would be a fine substantial bridge spanning the Wapsie before any such predicament would arise, but in case the current got too low and narrow it was proposed to let the boat rest across the channel and finish out with planks by way of a temporary bridge—but this was simply a precautionary forethought which would not have to be used. But alas and alack, “The best laid plans oft gang alee—”

It was months before the bridge was built, and no amount of inconvenience, numerous accidents, extra expense, constant complaint or urging could induce the board of supervisors to act. Any number of propositions and suggestions were forthcoming to raise the necessary funds, but as usual, "great bodies move slowly," and this board could not be budged—until the spirit moved them.

Many times the ferryboat broke its guy ropes and floated off down stream where the occupants would have either to wade ashore or wait for assistance until finally a heavy chain was purchased. The recital of these numerous accidents in the weekly papers would fill a volume and as none proved serious they were very ludicrous and highly entertaining reading.

Toll was required of everyone not a resident of the county and owing to the great number of immigrants' teams going over, the ferry brought in quite an amount of revenue, but ferrying did not continue long when fording became possible. Finally in June the supervisors voted \$2,000 toward building a bridge and the additional amount was to be gotten by subscription. Two thousand, five hundred and fifty dollars was subscribed on short order, and the contract was let for a \$5,000 bridge—but the cost exceeded this amount by \$1,500, making it \$6,500. The contract was given to Mr. Samuel Sherwood to be completed in three months and the last of November saw its completion. It was a six span bridge, quite a good structure. A temporary foot bridge was built while the bridge was being constructed, but this was rather a dangerous concern—several people becoming dizzy, were precipitated into the river below, and every storm caused some sort of trouble with it, then skiffs and boats had to be utilized—which was quite an expensive luxury at 10 and 15 cents a trip. The ferryboat and cable afterwards were sold for \$150 to parties in Linn County and floated down the river with quite a deal of ceremony and fun with this notice of her departure "Port of Independence—First Departure Tuesday, A. M., April 10, 1866. Ferryboat Enterprise sailed for Linn County via Quasqueton Dam from Jones' Wharf Independence, committed to a crew of six." Thus the ferry departed to continue elsewhere the good service she did here. Peace to her future, cherished be the memory of the past! and thus ended our ferry days.

In 1871, another very spectacular flood occurred. The winter had been exceptionally cold and the river had frozen at a time of high water to a depth of three feet or more, then in the spring there were unusually heavy rains, consequently when the ice broke up, there was plenty of excitement and trouble in store for the inhabitants along its course. Great masses of this ice came crashing down and demolished whatever stopped or hindered it. Three or four ice-breakers built like large cribs and filled with boulders which had been built above the dam at Independence were demolished like houses built of straw or as if they had been little muskrat houses. The water was so deep that it made only a ripple as it passed over the mill-dam, which was ten or twelve feet in height. The dam was the old wooden structure that the mill company replaced with the splendid cement one built a few years ago and which we will give fuller notice of later on.

The huge cakes riding majestically along on the raging torrent seemed to gain strength and momentum as they went. Tumbling and writhing over the dam, then crowding together and piling up on each other like demon monsters ready for a final onslaught they hurled themselves against the piers of the bridge

below. What bridge of like construction could withstand the strength and fury of the elements, certainly not a wooden structure such as this was. It was built of heavy timbers with two piers, which, like the ice breakers, consisted of cribs built of heavy timbers and filled with boulders. The principal attack was upon the pier nearest the eastern abutment. This, like the other, was protected by a wooden guard, built of large timbers and extending out into the water in the form of an angular inclined plane. Against this the huge masses of ice were hurled with such tremendous force that they were crowded up this incline to its summit, then crashed down in a chaotic mass.

The guard was soon worn away and then the huge piles came crashing directly against the piers. The bridge trembled with every onslaught of the ice and the crowds of people assembled on the banks realized that it was doomed. A breach was already made in the pier, the boulders began to tumble out, then the top began to settle down and the floor of the bridge tipped up, the whole structure became more and more askew till suddenly the rest of the pier gave way and the whole east end of the bridge went down with a tremendous crash. And although the other pier and abutments stood the test so that less than half the bridge was washed away, the authorities wisely decided to remove the rest of the old structure and replace it with another, more substantial and permanent. The result was an iron bridge of two spans (strong and graceful) according to ancient lore, resting upon two abutments and one large pier, all built of solid masonry which it was reasonably believed no ice-jams would ever be able to batter down and they haven't up until the present day—but still support an iron bridge, but not the one referred to, built in 1871. Our present bridge—much heavier and more substantial and larger in every way, was built in 1890 at a cost of \$13,000.

The former structure was divided, one span forming the middle section of a bridge about three and one-half miles up the river from Quasqueton and eight miles southeast of Independence. The other half forms the middle section of a bridge about six miles north of Independence.

All anxiety concerning a drought which had existed for some weeks was a thing of the past and the old saying that "it never rains but it pours," most aptly describes the third week in May, 1902. Just one decade before, in 1892, the high water mark was set. The streets ran with water, the flooded cellars, and overflowed water works building had been subjects of discussion ever since, but Sunday's flood (May 18th) overreached the high water mark between seven and eight inches and aside from the water works and electric light building, the damage was much greater all along the river course.

There was a terrific rain storm on Saturday night and on Sunday morning, about 3 o'clock, the water began to rise rapidly and for fourteen hours its progress was upward. About 5 P. M. it started to recede and a note of relief was sounded along the line of anxious watchers. Its decline, however, was slow, and at 9 A. M. Monday the water mark was the same height it had attained on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock. The storm was of wide extent, covering parts of all the states surrounding and floods in the north caused the Wapissipinicon to overreach its banks for some time.

One source of damage ordinarily not taken into account is the gardens. For a depth of two blocks on either side of the river the gardens were a total loss,

either by being washed out entirely or covered with a mud deposit that retarded all development.

Sheds, boat houses and other out buildings along the river afforded continuous spectacles for thousands of spectators. The greatest regret was experienced when the steamboat Iowa was washed from its bed in the river and dashed to pieces in the volume of water below the dam. Nearly everyone who witnessed this destruction had spent happy hours upon its deck. Water measures showed that over five inches fell during the night.

While the loss within the city limits would hardly exceed three thousand dollars, yet so widely was it distributed that many business firms and families were afflicted. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the pier on the east side of the river with its guard of boulders gave way and the water made a mad rush into the adjacent Main Street abutment. Cellars that had never before known more than an inch or two of water were at once filled to a depth of three feet. Nearly all the basements were used for the storage of surplus goods and consequently considerable damage was done.

The greatest loss was in the Steam Laundry, the Bowling Alley and the Economy Store basements. The stocks in all basements as far east as Logan's Dry Goods Store on the south side and Roany's Grocery on the north side of the street were injured to a greater or less extent. The Gas Works and the Megow Foundry each were damaged about two hundred dollars worth. The Mill Company's loss to the pier was about two hundred dollars. The Economy Store had \$1,000 in surplus stock in the cellar but about three-fourths of it was saved. The Telephone Company suffered considerable damage and great inconvenience. The West End Grocery had a large quantity of sugar and soap stored in their basement, the probable loss of which was about three hundred dollars. The large barn on the farm of C. E. Boies, south of town, was completely demolished by the wind. This barn was about 50x80 feet, built at a cost of \$2,000. It was reported that thirty head of cattle were drowned below Quasqueton on the Agnew Farm. They were pastured on the bottom lands and had drowned before the rise of the water was discovered. Another pasture of hogs was similarly destroyed.

This was the highest stage of water in forty years. The damage at the waterworks was one spot that compared favorably with the work of the flood ten years before. The water rose in the building to a point three to five inches higher than ever before and the giving way of the pier was the one accident that saved the fires. The rush of water on the east side slightly relieved the pressure on the west side. Two inches more of water would have put out the fires. It was necessary to cut off all portions of the city from electric lights except the business houses and railway stations. Ten years previous the water main in the middle of the stream was broken and the foundation of the ground was washed away which resulted in the building of the high boulder wall which passed through the present flood undamaged.

The water dashed the steel supports of the second bridge in the city out and came within a foot of the Illinois Central Railway Bridge. An immense reservoir of water was held back of the railway embankment which reached to the stock yards. Deep gullies were washed into the embankment and endangered the switch plant. The Burlington Bridge above was washed by the

water and a large portion of the track lay under water. No trains were run over the line on Sunday and the damage on the upper part of the line was so severe that regular trains were not run for several days. From the Burlington Bridge north over two thousand feet of track lay four inches deep under water and on Monday there was still eighteen inches of river still upon it. It was necessary to carry through the wrecking train and two engineers waded ahead to test the tracks. The train was carried through the flooded portion, the fires rebuilt and then proceeded on its way to Maynard.

The wash-outs caused the wreck of a freight train on the Illinois Central tracks, one and one-half miles east of Independence. It was heavily loaded with coal and the spreading of the rails caused the derailing of nine cars. The wreck was a serious one and delayed traffic for seventeen hours, when a track was constructed around the wreck and travel was resumed at 3:30 P. M. An incident of the storm was that those who worshipped at the Evangelical Church, situated in the Fourth Ward on that Sunday morning walked in and were canoed out.

On Wednesday and Thursday nights, July 5 and 6, 1892, heavier rains had visited Independence than had ever been known within the memory of the oldest inhabitants. The railroad embankments above the city prevented the water from raising below them, which it would otherwise have done and prevented what might have been a great catastrophe. Above the railroad tracks north of the city there was a sea of water the level of which was several feet above the river below. Few people realized at the time the great peril of those living on the flats would have been had either of the railroad embankments given away. Had they given away water would have come half way up Main Street. The false work under the Illinois Central Bridge went out and as the timbers approached the dam one of them broke the 10-inch water main which ran through the mill pond to supply the east side of the river; thus the east side was for a time without water or fire protection. All approaches to the B., C. R. & N. Bridge were badly washed out. From their exposed condition the waterworks buildings and lots were most valiantly attacked by the rising tide, and when the water level became dangerous the city officials hastened to provide means to protect the property. The fire alarm was sounded and the firemen were set to work carrying planks to the waterworks lots. These were placed along the exposed fronts and heavy iron from the old bridge placed on them to hold them down.

The water continued to rise until it completely covered the lot and was nearly one foot deep in the building. The working of the machinery was not interfered with, although the engineers waded in water knee deep. The flat west of the waterworks building was completely under water and most of the inhabitants had to move out.

The rainfall during the first hour on Wednesday evening was the heaviest on record at this place for a like length of time. It measured 1.9 inches. There were three feet of water in the Steam Laundry and Heege & Delaney's work room was similarly flooded. The Forrester Bridge, which had been washed out several weeks previous, had been replaced and was again washed out. The bridge two blocks north, across the same stream, on East Tennessee Street, was struck by heavy trees from land just above and washed away.



## CHAPTER XVII

### PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

THE INDEPENDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY—THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL—THE MUNSON BUILDING—TABOR LIBRARY—Y. M. C. A.—CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE—COUNTY HOME—CEMETERIES.

#### THE INDEPENDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

This notice in the *Civilian* of March 19, 1857, is the first intimation of a public library which we found: "The festival at the Empire House, on Thursday of last week, was well attended by 'fair women and brave men.' The proceeds, which amounted to some two hundred dollars, are to be appropriated to the foundation of a public library." This sum seems very insignificant in purchasing a collection of books, but was a good beginning and served as a nucleus for a growth which has continued until now we have an exceptionally fine library for the size of the town. However, the growth of the library has not been unretarded, for in the big fire of May, 1874, everything was burned but the record book and those books which individuals had in their possession. But this complete destruction but served as an incentive to greater effort along this line and a much better collection of books was purchased than before the fire. The public library was organized in September, 1873, and received the books of the Independence Library Association, numbering about six hundred volumes. This was a voluntary association, which had been in existence for a few years previous and had been maintained by annual fees.

On August 8, 1869, the Independence Library Association was organized in Independence. Committees who had previously been appointed to canvass the different wards to solicit for membership reported eighty-one new members outside the First Ward.

The officers elected were as follows: President, Rev. W. L. Hunter; vice president, D. S. Deering; secretary, William Toman; treasurer, George B. Warne; executive committee, J. P. Sampson, J. L. Loomis, L. A. Main, and George Woodruff.

The library was to be situated in the office of Dr. C. A. Clarke, in the Wilcox building on the south side of Main Street, next the river. Doctor Clarke consented to act as librarian. New cases were to be made, and the volumes already in possession of the association and many new and valuable books were to be added. This society had succeeded the old Independence Lyceum formed about 1857, by C. F. Leavitt, D. S. Deering, and others. This first library consisted of some three hundred volumes, mostly standard literature, donated by the several members, and loaned for a small fee in order to cover the running expenses of the public reading room which they maintained. This society in its benevolent

intent furnished both profitable and pleasant entertainment to many people who would otherwise have been deprived of this necessary indulgence. The formation of the library association in 1869 and the purchase of new books in 1871 and 1872, had awakened in the people a desire to improve the library and when the act passed by the state Legislature authorizing city councils to appropriate by taxation, on the vote of the people, a levy of 1 mill on the dollar for library purposes, it is a noteworthy fact that Independence was the first city in the state to take advantage of the law. After the library was burned in the big fire of 1874 rooms were leased in the second story of the Morse building (now occupied by the D. F. Logan Dry Goods Store), for the library proper, and the rooms across the hall over Tabor's Drug Store (and now occupied by Chappell and Todd's Law Office) served as a reading room. These were fitted up and furnished by public subscription; the annual revenue derived from the city tax levy could not be used for such purposes as it was only sufficient to meet the current expenses and provide a small sum yearly for the purchase of books. Five hundred and fifty dollars was needed to buy the necessary furnishings and shelving. Here it remained until March 1, 1895, when it was removed to the second story of the Munson building, which was built by Mr. Perry Munson especially for that purpose and generously given to the city. At different times generous donations were given to the public library. Doctor Warne and Mr. J. B. Jones each gave \$500 to the library fund toward the purchase of books. Doctor Bryant gave \$500 toward finishing the third story of the Munson building and Col. Jed Lake the ground on which the building is situated, which is valued at \$1,000, and Perry Munson bequeathed to it the \$15,000 building for the public library and industrial school purposes.

Mrs. E. A. Sanford was the librarian for many years. She was succeeded by Mrs. Emmeline Jacobs, who officiated for seventeen years. She was followed by a librarian who only remained a short time and then by Miss Markham, who has held the position about six years. Miss Markham is an accomplished librarian and eminently fitted for the position. She is always pleasant and accommodating to everyone and thoroughly conversant with the work, having taken special training at the state university, and keeps in constant touch with new and improved methods and, furthermore, has read extensively.

In 1881 the number of volumes in the library list was 1,750 and valued at about eighteen hundred dollars. Nine monthly periodicals, nine weeklies, four dailies were subscribed for, and all of these were among the very best of their kind published; six county papers were contributed by the publishers and one monthly periodical was donated by an individual.

Besides the funds from taxation, the library was imbursed with contributions from different societies for special purposes. These gifts added greatly to the convenience and benefits of the patrons, as well as keeping up the interest of the public in its welfare. In 1880 the dramatic association donated \$50 for the purchase of a new carpet, etc., and the Young Ladies' Social Club gave \$22.26. The rules governing the loaning of books were in some respects entirely different then than now. Patrons residing outside the city paid an annual fee of \$2, just as they do now. This is because they are not taxed for this benefit.

Books drawn from the library might be retained two weeks and renewed for one week on presentation. Now there are one and two-week books. The two-



week books can be renewed for one week. The late one-week books which are in great demand cannot be renewed except on different card. A fine of 3 cents was imposed for every day over-due, whereas it is now 2 cents. Formerly if it was not paid in two weeks it was collected by messenger, with an additional charge of 25 cents, and out-of-town subscribers were charged mileage of 25 cents per mile when a messenger was sent to collect a fine. No messengers are employed nowadays.

The first official report of the library was made in 1876, reporting 713 volumes, an income of \$1,000 and a circulation of 12,000. The number of books loaned in 1880 was 10,278 and the number of new applications for cards was 169. In 1886 it reported 2,518 volumes, income \$958, and in 1895 4,000 volumes, with a circulation of 14,484 and an income of \$950. The Dewey Decimal System, which is the one now used, is considered the best of the several different systems and the one used in all the principal libraries in the country. It was introduced into the Independence Library in 1907. It is combined with what is known as the open-shelf system, where the patron has free access to all the book shelves.

The 1913 annual report, ending December 31st, gave the number of volumes in the library, at the close of the year, 5,660, of which 161 books had been purchased and twenty-one donated during that year. This is the number of accession books. The total number of volumes in the library, including bound documents, encyclopedias, dictionaries, biographical and historical reference books, and all those which are not loaned, are 14,530. One hundred and ninety of these were added that year. (In the year 1914, up till October, 176 have been added to the number of volumes.) The total circulation during the year 1913 was 12,297 books. Largest daily circulation, 112; smallest, 10, and an average of 40 books. Strange to say, the largest gain in circulation was made in the sociological class. The percentage of children's books circulated was 22 per cent and 66 of adult fiction. One hundred and seventy-six books and magazines were bound last year. The Independence Library has a fine, roomy, pleasant reading room with a section devoted to juvenile needs and enjoyments.

The current literature is represented by seven newspapers and fifty-three periodicals and these include the very best published. The librarian informs us that the Independence Library is particularly well stocked with this kind of literature. One hundred and eighty-six borrowers' cards were issued in the year 1913, six cards are held by country patrons and the total number of patrons' cards is 1,560.

The tax levy amounts to \$1,294.76 and the total expenditures to \$1,298.22, of which \$187.45 was expended on books, \$87 on periodicals and \$130.30 on building. For fines \$42.17 was collected.

The library is open to the public about three hundred and fifty-eight days in the year and thirty-three hours a week, in the afternoons and evenings.

The library is in possession of some very fine books, only a few of which we can mention, among them James Tissot's "Life of Jesus Christ," in three volumes; "Character Sketches of Romance, Fiction and the Drama;" "Photographic History of the Civil War;" "Stoddard's Lectures;" several different sets of encyclopedias; some fine reference books; many full sets of standard literature, beautifully bound and illustrated, and many of the late popular books. One valuable possession is a copy of the first paper, the *Civilian*, ever published

in Buchanan County, which was framed and presented to the library by Mr. L. W. Goen.

Another fine addition to the reference library was "Poole's Index" from the year 1815 to 1899, and the "Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature," in two bound volumes, from the year 1900 to 1905, and from 1905 to 1909; also a subscription to the Reader's Guide Magazine, a monthly magazine, \$16 per annum, with references to the latest current literature. The Independence Public Library is an institution of which we can feel justly proud and with the deep interest which the citizens of Independence manifest in literary and educational matters, it will, with the requirements of the times, grow and expand, both in number of volumes and circulation, as it has done in the past.

A geological and mineralogical department was started in connection with the public library in 1874, and the general public were requested to contribute specimens of fossils, shells, ores, and curiosities, and a very fine collection was soon exhibited.

The vicinity of Independence is richer in fossils of the Devonian period than any other locality in the state, and some rich and rare specimens of this kind were in the library (cabinet) exhibit.

To secure the location of the hospital here, a public subscription was circulated among the citizens of Independence for the purchasing of the 320 acres required by the Legislature. Six thousand four hundred and seventy dollars was collected and several hundred were yet uncollected, which amount, after buying the land, left a surplus of about four hundred dollars. No disposition was made of this and it was subsequently donated to the library fund.

#### THE TABOR LIBRARY

One of the most valuable possessions that ever found lodging in Independence was the Tabor Library, consisting of some ten thousand volumes of the rarest and most valuable works, owned and collected by Judge S. J. W. Tabor, who spent years of the most discriminate skill and care in collecting this valuable library. He was a man of the most extensive reading and wide knowledge and was a connoisseur of all things pertaining to literature. He read at least seven languages, and a large proportion of his library was books written in foreign languages. After his death the library was unfortunately divided and sold. In November, 1886, 6,000 volumes were sent to New York to be sold. The library was offered for sale to the Iowa State Library, and this rare opportunity of obtaining such a splendid acquisition should have and would have been taken advantage of had the state not been financially embarrassed.

Then Mrs. Stephen Tabor broke up her home in Independence and donated some very rare volumes, mostly translations from the foreign languages, to the public library.

Mrs. John Barnett and Mrs. Nathan Evers, daughters of Judge Tabor, have large libraries of choice and rare volumes saved from this valuable collection.

#### THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

The Industrial School of Independence was started by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in 1889. The officers of the union at that time were: Presi-

dent, Mrs. E. M. Grimwood; secretary, Mrs. Ephraim Leach; treasurer, Mrs. W. G. Donnan, and Mrs. Narcissus T. Bemis was elected superintendent of the school.

Previous to the erection of the Munson Building, the meetings were first held in Superintendent Parker's office at the courthouse, then at the old high school, now the grammar grade school, and for several terms in the back room of Miss DeClaire's millinery store.

After the completion of the building in 1893, the school occupied the first floor and basement. The meetings were held on Saturday afternoon, from 1:30 until 4:00, during the months from November until April.

In 1895, the work becoming too arduous and expensive for one society to carry on alone, the W. C. T. U. associated themselves with the Woman's Relief Society to share the burdens and responsibilities of the growing enterprise, the work and expense to be shared equally by the two societies, and each pledged to furnish one-half the number of teachers required for all the departments.

At first the school comprised only sewing classes, but in 1903 a manual training course for boys and domestic science department were also added. The work of the manual training department was entirely supported by the W. C. T. U. Fourteen sewing classes, three domestic science and the manual training class were maintained for several years, but when manual training was introduced into the public schools the latter department was dropped. Often this school had an enrollment of over one hundred pupils. The year 1905 was an average one and during that term there were eighty-four girls and twenty-nine boys enrolled. The total number of articles made by the girls that year was 119, by the boys 54. The amount expended to support the girls' sewing department averaged about \$50; girls' cooking classes, \$15, and the boys' manual training, \$20.

Girls ranging in age from five to fifteen years were admitted to the sewing classes. The beginners were taught to make a quilt block or hem a towel, while the older pupils who had previously attended the school were allowed to make any of their wearing apparel which they chose to make, selecting the materials and styles from those furnished by the school. These garments were given to the pupil when completed. Some years it has been the custom for the scholars to make Christmas gifts for their parents. The domestic science proved very popular with the girls. Three classes received instruction during the term and four lessons were given to each class. The girls were taught to cook and serve simple, wholesome food. The table was spread and the juvenile cooks sat down and enjoyed the fruits of their labor, then the dishes were washed and the kitchen and pantry put into order, cleanliness and neatness being one of the principal things taught. These classes were under the supervision of competent and experienced women who were thoroughly conversant with the culinary art.

The manual training department was under the direction of two competent carpenters and the boys learned to build practical and useful things, making wash benches, book shelves, tables, meat boards, stools and sleds. When this branch of the school was first established they made all of the tables used for the sewing classes, but the equipment was too meagre to do any very elaborate work.

The expenses of the school were not heavy and the means to carry on the work was nearly all solicited. A small sum to the cutter and fitter and to the janitor were the only expenses for labor as the teachers for the different classes gave their time and labor gratuitously, with the exception of those who were employed to do substitute work for some one of the regular teachers.

For several years Colonel Lake solicited funds for the school, and that, with generous donations of goods, lumber and boxes, and edibles for the domestic science department was their only means of support.

Every year a quilt made from the blocks pieced by the younger scholars of the school was sent to the orphans' home at Des Moines and in this way the children were taught to be generous and thoughtful.

Mrs. A. L. Palmer, who was president of the W. C. T. U. almost since its organization, was also superintendent of the industrial school for many years, and her able leadership and unselfish, beautiful life was a constant inspiration to her co-workers, and she has been succeeded in this capacity by noble, self-sacrificing women who have conscientiously followed her example.

The officers of the industrial school were the president of the board of directors, which consisted of five members of the W. C. T. U. and five members of the Woman's Relief Society, and a secretary and two assistant secretaries and a superintendent of the domestic science department.

About the year 1908 the W. C. T. U. withdrew their support from the school and the Relief Society has since that time carried on the sewing classes. The rooms which they occupied are now in the possession of the high school manual training and printing office and arrangements have been made to conduct the school in the high school domestic science rooms, should there be need of such a school being continued.

One gift worthy of mention presented to the school was a beautiful silk quilt pieced by Mrs. Dan Walker for which the ladies of the Woman's Relief Society realized a goodly sum by selling tickets on it. An occasion of unusual interest which the school for many years enjoyed was the public reception on the Saturday afternoon before its close, when samples of the work in all departments were shown to a large and appreciative number of visitors. It has been the custom of late years to make the last day of school an occasion of jollification. The Relief Society furnished a fine banquet and the children a pleasing literary and musical program and various games. During the term musicians of Independence generously afforded a short musical program on each school day.

#### THE MUNSON BUILDING

We are glad to speak a word of appreciation and call to memory the name of Perry Munson, a public benefactor of Independence, who died November 30, 1893. By the terms of his will he bequeathed \$15,000 for the purpose of erecting a building in Independence, Iowa, to be used for an industrial training school, and by the Free Public Library of Independence. But desiring to have the building commenced during his life, he paid over to three trustees appointed by himself the sum bequeathed for the purpose mentioned, and the basement of the building was completed prior to his decease. Colonel Lake, of Independence, gave the ground valued at \$1,000 for the location of the building in the business

center of the city, and convenient for the purpose of such building. The building is 40 by 80 feet with high basement, two stories and a high attic, all furnished for occupation. The second story is occupied by the Free Public Library of Independence and the first floor by the high school manual training and printing office. The foundation is constructed of large boulders, locally known as prairie granite, the superstructure of pressed brick, and the building is an ornament to the city.

Mr. Munson provided in his will that after his decease the trustees named by him, with others to be chosen by them, should be incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa for the purpose named in his bequest. Such incorporation was duly perfected. The provision making this bequest concludes as follows: "It being my wish and desire to have this school founded on the most liberal principles as to use, for the benefit of persons educated therein, so as to assist them in becoming useful men and women." Such a public-spirited and beneficent act should receive the grateful recognition and appreciation of all our citizens and some special tribute to the benefactor's memory would be not only gracious and laudable, but an inspiration to the young, not for the glory of the departed, for his life and deeds were his monument, but in justice to a living gratitude.

#### THE Y. M. C. A.

The Y. M. C. A. was established in Independence in May, 1895. Dr. G. H. Hill was elected president of the association.

The association had well equipped rooms in the Munson Library Building; which included a large gymnasium and assembly room and secretary's office and reception room on the first floor. In the basement were located the bathrooms, toilets, etc. Some days as high as eighty baths were taken in the Y. M. C. A. bathrooms.

Mr. Schofield was the first secretary.

At the end of the first year 150 senior members and 72 juniors were enrolled, and during the winter large and enthusiastic gymnasium classes were maintained. After about a year's residence in the Munson Building, the classes had become so large that more room was needed, so in partnership with Company E of the Iowa National Guards, the association rented King Opera House for their headquarters, where they remained until the fall of 1898. The military company was organized in conjunction with the Y. M. C. A. and paid \$200, the amount allowed by the state for armory purposes, toward the rent. Numerous secretaries have managed the organization at Independence, and all were more or less successful.

The secretary reported that the work done in 1897 was a wonderful advancement over the previous years. At the Sunday meetings there was an average attendance of 54, 65 daily visits, 20,280 in one year, and 6,686 baths annually.

On Thursday evening, September 8, 1898, the Y. M. C. A. opened up their commodious and inviting rooms in the Sherwood Building on the north side of Main Street, next the bridge (where the Band Box Millinery is now located). The building was intended for a store, but had not been occupied as such for some time, and was in a run-down state; the second floor was formerly

occupied by a bowling alley and saloon and the change seemed magical after these rooms had been converted into a handsome parlor and reading room, with comfortable and artistic appointments and attractive furniture. The first floor, which was previously a musty, dirty wareroom, had been converted into an office; in the rear of this was a space for indoor games and in back of this the bathrooms, 17 by 27 feet, fitted up with porcelain tubs, shower baths and lockers. The gymnasium was a room 35 by 27 feet and the full two stories high. The parlor and reading room was 63 by 37 feet, and here all the comforts and conveniences of a home parlor could be found. The reading room was amply supplied with the daily and weekly newspapers and all the best periodicals and the rooms were open to the public all day and evening at seasonable hours.

A reception was held in the new rooms, and although no special effort had been made to make this an unusual event, over two hundred guests were present. A short program was given and an interesting talk by J. L. Seofield, secretary of the Waterloo Y. M. C. A. The Independence Y. M. C. A. had at that time a membership of 135.

The association had gone to considerable expense in fitting up these rooms, but the money made on an excursion to Dubuque, August 5th, of which they were the promoters, covered all the expense. Three hundred and sixty people from Independence and one hundred from Jesup filled the nine special coaches which left Independence, and before they reached Dubuque six coaches had to be added. The hospital band accompanied the excursionists and discoursed their splendid music generously. Various amusements had been arranged for entertainment of the crowd, amongst other things a baseball game between the hospital team and Dubuque, and as a remuneration for their efforts the Y. M. C. A. boys cleared \$350.

A ladies' auxiliary of the Y. M. C. A. was organized and assisted in every way the men's organization. They gave receptions every month. These Y. M. C. A. rooms were the scene of many fine entertainments. A very novel and interesting one was the photographic loan exhibit which was given by the Congregational church, under the efficient management of Mrs. Caroline Morse, who was the projector of the scheme, assisted by Messrs. Stephen Tabor and D. S. Jones. The exhibit lasted three days, thirty-eight persons contributed and a total of 2,012 views were exhibited. The arrangement of the pictures was both artistic and unique. The fine display, the delight of the visitors, and the receipts all testified that the affair was a decided success.

The Y. M. C. A. was a strong factor for good in this community for a time, but when some of its best financial supporters, like Doctor Hill, A. L. Palmer, and others, moved away from Independence, the enthusiasm gradually died down and finally subsided, and the rooms became a loafing place for boys, and it was deemed wise to suspend further operations.

For many years it was the life and inspiration of the athletic, social and literary interests of the town and was actively concerned in all public enterprises. Its membership included a large per cent of the prominent church, business and young men about the city. It had a fine glee club, which generously responded to every possible public request; baseball, football and basketball teams, which were never weary in contesting for championships. In 1904 Secretary Calkins took the Y. M. C. A. basketball team on a trip to points in Iowa and Illinois,

had a series of five games and were victorious in two. Its social entertainments with fine literary and musical programs contributed by its members and the best home talent (and often imported sojourners in the city were induced to take part) were always highly enjoyable, and last but not least, was the splendid lecture course which the Y. M. C. A. inaugurated and which still continues as one of the greatest institutions for entertainment and enjoyment that the citizens of Independence have and is left as a granite monument to the Y. M. C. A. of Independence.

The Y. M. C. A. still owns the building which it formerly occupied and which is rented to mercantile businesses.

#### THE CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE

At a meeting of representatives of the various club organizations of the city, held Thursday, March 30, 1905, for the purpose of discussing the question of improvement of our city, the sentiment was unanimous in favor of organizing such a league of both men and women. It was decided to extend the invitation to Prof. Thomas H. McBride, of the State University at Iowa City, to visit our city and deliver his famous lecture on the subject, "City Beautiful." His lecture was illustrated with stereopticon views and proved to be one of the finest things of its kind every heard here. At the conclusion of his remarks, the report of the committees on constitution and nomination, which were appointed by the preliminary organization, were presented and adopted. The following officers were elected: President, C. W. Stites; vice president, Mrs. P. G. Freeman; secretary, Mrs. G. W. Rogers; treasurer, Mrs. H. E. Palmer; and the board of managers consisted of two representatives from each ward or sometimes a ward president.

Soliciting committees were appointed for each ward whose duties were to ask every resident to become a member, the fee to be 50 cents, and each member pledged himself to keep his own premises in good order. Any person might become a sustaining member by paying \$5 annually to the treasurer and keeping the yard of such person in good order. The work of revising city ordinances was one of the practical interests of the society.

It was voted to join the national association, the fee for each local lodge being \$2 annually.

At the second meeting the vice president reported a list of twenty sustaining members who had already joined, besides many others who had signified their intention of doing so.

It was decided to offer two prizes, one for the most artistic grounds and one for the best kept lawn in the city; also a prize of \$4 was given to the high school student who wrote the best article on the subject, "How Best to Improve Our City," \$2 to be paid in cash and the student would be enrolled as a member of the Park and Forestry Association and receive the Forestry Magazine for two years. The contest closed May 27th and the productions were criticised by three competent judges and the result announced at the Gedney on commencement night.

Excellent work has been accomplished by this society. The river banks have been cleaned of all debris and back of the South Main Street stores, on the east

side, what had formerly been a dumping ground for all those stores was filled in with dirt, grass seed planted, a bowlder wall built all along the river bank to prevent its washing out. This place is named Allen's Park. The city parks were cleaned, flower beds planted in numerous places about town and waste spots cleaned and made attractive with flowers and vines. Prizes were given for the best flower and vegetable beds to individuals and schools. One worker for this cause, who deserves particular mention, is Miss Mary Iekel, who took one of the most unsightly looking places in the city and made of it a veritable bower of beauty. This place had been called the old Bell Tower Park, but was rechristened Mary's Park, after the one who so diligently worked for its improvement.

The society gave suppers and two flower shows and a tag day, all of which were unqualified successes and reaped a rich harvest. Tag day alone brought in \$150. Much money has been expended by this society and much good has resulted, and if no other benefit than that the whole community were inspired with the "City Beautiful" idea, it was well worth every effort of those who have expended much time and labor for the public welfare. Mrs. Freeman, Dr. Caroline Brooks Woodruff, Mr. R. G. Swan, Miss Frenella Barnhart have served as presidents. Mr. A. G. Beatty is the present incumbent. The last meeting was held at the high school in May, 1914, at which Mr. Beatty was elected president and Professor Dukes, secretary.

#### THE COUNTY HOME

The trustees of the several townships are by law empowered to furnish all necessary relief for the poor within their jurisdiction at the expense of the county. Application for assistance is made, and if the case proves to be a worthy one, the trustees or supervisors of the poor satisfy their wants. No family, except in rare cases and for short periods, as in case of sickness, ever requires or receives its entire support from the county. In winter the common need is fuel and at all seasons it may be food, house rent, clothing or medical attention.

The possible families or individuals needing occasional help are kept in the towns, and only where there is no prospect for self-maintenance or physically impaired, or with no relatives or friends to care for them are they sent to the county home.

In the early days the calls were many, far exceeding those in the present day prosperity. A new country where people expend their little savings to arrive at their point of destination, and wages low, and with comparatively small hired help, cases of destitution are frequent and of real merit. Until 1866, when the poor farm was purchased, destitute cases were cared for by kind neighbors and friends and the benevolent societies in the community.

The first notice of a Buchanan County poor farm appeared in the county newspapers in December, 1865, when the county advertised for a farm mainly to afford relief for those who were homeless as well as in want. The farm formerly consisted of 194 acres—now 220—in the eastern part of Washington Township, in section 25, township 89, range 9. One hundred and twenty acres were bought of the Hathaway estate and the rest of Mr. Van Etten for about four thousand





BUCHANAN COUNTY HOME



dollars. Of this land, 160 acres were prairie and the rest woodland. The farm had on it, when purchased by the county, a substantial stone dwelling house and such outbuildings as were common at that time. An ice and refrigerator plant have been added to the equipment. Since the purchase a two-story frame addition has been joined to the dwelling and a large and commodious barn was built, which, a few years ago, burned to the ground and was replaced by another large and commodious one, 40 by 100 feet. This same house is in use today and has the distinction of being one of the oldest and one of the worst in the State of Iowa; but in 1912 the question of building a new county home was submitted to the voters, and the proposition carried by a vote of 2,263 for and 2,032 against, and in the spring of 1915 the supervisors will begin the erection of a substantial, commodious and convenient house, which will be fit and appropriate for a county possessing the financial prosperity always enjoyed by Buchanan County.

The poor farm is under the control of the three county supervisors, who appoint one of their number as chairman of the poor farm committee. They hire a steward to take charge of the farm and a matron to manage the domestic establishment and look after the comfort of the inmates. The committee holds meetings at the poor farm and makes annual reports. The steward purchases everything needed and disposes of all farm produce, reporting at stated times to the supervisors. The salary of the steward and matron is \$100 per month, but must hire their own help. Some of the inmates are insane. The inmates are supposed to assist about the house and farm. The house has accommodations for twenty inmates and the average number is sixteen; but when the new home is completed will be increased considerably, owing to several being kept at the state hospital who rightfully belong at the county home.

The poor farm keeps quite an amount of stock and this, with the other farm products, furnishes a large share of their living.

#### OAKWOOD AND OTHER CEMETERIES

In 1850 a cemetery was laid out by Norman Bassitt in the southwestern part of Independence, on a hill just east of where the Hospital Boulevard joins the Brandon Road. At one time there were many graves there, but years ago it was abandoned as a cemetery and all but two or three of the graves removed. It now is the property of John Premis and used for farming purposes. In 1859 another cemetery was established northwest of the Illinois Central depot, southwest of the fair grounds, by Dr. R. W. Wright and called Independence Cemetery. It was only kept up a few years and became so neglected that the graves were moved to what is now Oakwood Cemetery, which was established in April, 1864, by Messrs. Richard Campbell and Edward Ross. This cemetery is situated in the Second Ward, near the South Bridge, and extends from Walnut Street to the river bank. It is in a beautiful location in a natural oak grove, and through the efforts of a women's cemetery association is kept in splendid condition.

Originally it contained only six acres, but in June, 1877, an addition of five acres was made thereto, and since then the river bank has been filled in to accommodate the fast filling space. There is very little available ground left, and there has been some agitation to buy more land adjoining it on the south or the neces-

sity of being compelled to establish a new cemetery will soon be a serious problem facing the inhabitants of Independence.

When the old cemetery became so neglected, the women of Independence, under the leadership of Mrs. Richard Campbell and Mrs. Bowley, raised over a hundred dollars toward repairing it in 1862, but when it was concluded to abandon that place and establish a new cemetery, they gave this money to the "bell" fund. After Oakwood was established, they directed their attention and efforts toward beautifying the new grounds. Walks and drives were laid out, flower beds and ornamental trees planted and a fine iron fence around the place. Lots were sold to the citizens at a very reasonable price to insure its success and its maintenance. Great interest was manifested in the project and everyone was delighted with the beauty and convenience of these new grounds. The beautiful situation of Oakwood Cemetery and its proximity to the city have been points in its favor and make the question of a new place even harder to decide. In 1901 Oakwood Cemetery Association took charge of the grounds and greatly improved and beautified them until it is one of the most beautiful and best kept cemeteries in the county.

#### THE GERMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY

This cemetery was established by the German Catholic Church some years ago in section 35, just east of the city limits. It was difficult of access and not on a main traveled road, so has practically been deserted; only a few graves remain, and the German and Irish Catholics occupy the same cemetery just north of Independence.

#### WILSON'S CEMETERY

A cemetery was laid out in the southeastern part of Washington Township by Elzy Wilson, grandfather of the present Mr. Elzy Wilson, in 1852. Afterwards a cemetery association was formed, which bought the property and laid it out in lots, walks and drives. It comprises four acres, beautifully situated on the side of a small slope and on what is known as the Quasqueton Road. The plat of the cemetery was filed April 11, 1875. Some years ago the place became neglected, and in 1895 a women's cemetery association was formed for the purpose of cleaning and improving the grounds, with the following officers: Mrs. J. M. Ensminger, president; Mrs. J. W. McMillan, vice president; Mrs. House, treasurer; and Mrs. Frank Sawyer, secretary. This organization has done most efficient work, and in its tireless efforts has made of Wilson Cemetery one of the most beautiful and well-kept cemeteries in the county. A man is employed by the year to attend to the lots and money for the maintenance of these expenses is partially raised by an annual dinner given by the organization at Independence, several times at the home of Mrs. Sawyer, and a goodly sum is always raised.

#### ST. JOHN'S CEMETERY

In September, 1863, Rev. Father John Gosker purchased the first ground for St. John's Catholic Cemetery. It is a plot containing four acres of land, beauti-

fully situated on the east bank of the Wapsipinicon, about one-fourth of a mile north of the City of Independence.

In 1899, the old cemetery having become too small, Rev. Father Peter O'Dowd purchased the lots east of the old cemetery and shortly thereafter the women of the Catholic church associated themselves into what is known as the St. John's Cemetery Association and took upon themselves the responsibility of improving and maintaining the cemetery. A cement walk was built from the city to the cemetery in 1907, and the place was fenced with a fine iron fence and a very artistic and ornamental gateway. Beautiful flower beds have been planted and walks and drives laid out and graveled. This association has worked diligently and unceasingly and give suppers, dinners, baking sales and bazaars to raise money for this worthy object and have the pleasurable compensation of having produced one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the county.



## CHAPTER XVIII

### THE INDEPENDENCE STATE HOSPITAL

#### THE BUILDINGS—THE EQUIPMENT—THE SUPERINTENDENTS

An act providing for the second state hospital for the insane, to be located within two miles of the City of Independence, was passed by the Iowa Legislature on April 6th in the year 1868.

This bill was introduced into the senate by Hon. G. W. Donnan, member of the senate from Buchanan County. The act designated E. G. Morgan of Webster County, Maturin L. Fisher of Clayton County and Albert Clark of Buchanan County a board of commissioners to locate the institution and erect the buildings. The act required a site comprising not less than three hundred and twenty acres of land, which must be obtained without cost to the state. The act also appropriated \$125,000.

It is said that Senator Donnan's action in securing the location of the hospital at Independence was severely criticised by many residents of the city and vicinity. It was feared that the patients would prove undesirable and constitute a menace to the community. Nevertheless, sufficient funds for the purchase of the desired location were subscribed by the citizens.

The plans and specifications for the construction of the hospital were prepared by S. V. Shipman of Madison, Wisconsin. The commissioners appointed George Josselyn of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, superintendent of construction.

Soon after the construction began Albert Clark died. The vacancy created by Mr. Clark's death was filled by the appointment of Hon. George W. Bemis of Independence as a member of the commission. He qualified January 21, 1869. In 1871 he was elected a member of the state senate from Buchanan County to succeed W. G. Donnan, who had been elected to Congress. Mr. Bemis continued a member of the commission until it was superseded by the board of trustees and was of signal use to the institution during his term in the senate.

In 1870 the Legislature appropriated \$165,000, in order to continue the construction of the hospital. About this time the general assembly elected seven trustees who were to take charge of the institution, when the commissioners of construction should deem it advisable to convene them. The first meeting of the trustees was held July 10, 1872, at Independence.

On October 3, 1872, the trustees appointed Dr. Albert Reynolds as superintendent of the hospital.

The hospital was opened for the reception of patients on May 1, 1873. The plan adopted provided for a central structure five stories high to serve the

administrative and domestic departments. To the central building there is appended two wings, each of which comprises four sections of corridors or wards. Each of the wings is three stories in height. This arrangement provides twenty-four wards, twelve in the north wing for male patients and an equal number in the south wing for female patients. The estimated capacity of the building is six hundred. When the hospital was first opened only two sections of the north wing had been constructed. These afforded accommodations for 150 patients. The structure provided for in the original plan was constructed piecemeal and was not completed until 1883. The building is faced with sandstone, giving it an imposing appearance. The basement walls are of prairie granite. The total cost of the construction of this one building was about eight hundred thousand dollars.

In 1883 W. G. Doman was again elected to the state senate. He and W. H. Chamberlain, member of the house from Buchanan County, secured an appropriation of \$25,000 for the erection of a cottage to be known as Farmers' Lodge, which provides accommodations for one hundred able-bodied working males. This detached cottage is a substantial two-story brick building.

In 1886 the Legislature appropriated \$40,000 for the construction of another detached cottage. From this allowance a two-story brick building known as Grove Hall, providing accommodations for one hundred chronic infirm male patients, was erected.

In 1894 the General Assembly voted an allowance of \$40,000, which was expended in the erection of a two-story brick, detached cottage, providing accommodations for one hundred chronic infirm female patients. This building is designated as Sunny Side Villa.

The thirty-second General Assembly in 1907 granted an appropriation of \$125,000 for the construction of another detached cottage. The expenditure of that appropriation provided a psychopathic hospital with 134 beds; sixty-seven for males and an equal number for females. It comprises a basement above grade and two stories, with a center or administrative section of three stories. The extreme dimensions are 259 feet by 125 feet, all of concrete and brick fireproof construction. The entire building is faced with beautiful, straw-colored pressed brick and provided with polished trimmings of Bedford stone. The building is provided with an operating room which is quite complete in its various appointments and is considered one of the finest in the Middle West. This building is also equipped with a complete hydro-therapeutic outfit, a cabinet for administering electric light baths, and extensive electro-therapeutic devices. Every patient brought to the hospital is first taken to this building, or infirmary, as it is called, and there treated and, if necessary, is later taken to the other buildings. This building was opened on October 1, 1910.

The latest building to be constructed is the nurses' cottage. This is a three-story, fireproof building of concrete and brick construction, faced with straw-colored brick, and is in every detail a model of completeness and efficiency of building. No other Iowa institution provides a separate building for the housing of the nurses, attendants and employees. The appropriation for this building amounted to \$57,500 and was made by the Legislature of 1913. Several smaller appropriations had been made previous to this year, but being insufficient they were not used. The home has just been completed and occupancy





HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, INDEPENDENCE



WINTER IN INDEPENDENCE



will begin the latter part of the year 1914. There are single rooms for fifty-two female attendants and twenty rooms for married couples. No single males are allowed to live in the building. The different floors are well provided with conveniences and with the commodious basement, recreation rooms and reception rooms, make the building a feature of its kind in the state and a precedent likely to be followed by other Iowa State institutions.

At the present time there are about twelve hundred patients in the hospital, although this number varies considerably from day to day owing to deaths, paroles, releases and new entries. There is a pay roll of about 200 people in the institution, including 108 nurses and attendants. Of this number of nurses there are only 16 male nurses. A regular training school is operated for the nurses and conducted by the superintendent and assistant doctors of the institution. Each nurse, upon completing the course, is given a certificate of graduation.

The Iowa statutes do not permit the voluntary admission of patients. Before a patient may be admitted to one of the state hospitals for the insane he must be adjudged insane and committed to the hospital by the legally constituted authorities. Commitment is prima facie evidence that the patient is not capable of transacting business. He is not restored to his right to attend to business affairs until the superintendent of the hospital discharges him as recovered. In the meantime, should he execute a deed, mortgage, will or any other legal paper, the burden of proof that the patient understood the nature and consequence of his act would devolve on the beneficiary of the instrument, in the event of the question being raised.

The hospital has had three superintendents. Albert Reynolds, M. D., occupied the position from February 1, 1873, until his resignation took effect on November 1, 1881. Doctor Reynolds was born at Grand Island, Vermont, August 18, 1837. In their first biennial report the trustees of the hospital said: "From a considerable number of physicians highly recommended on account of their capacity, attainments, skill and exemplary character, Albert Reynolds, Esquire, M. D., of Clinton in this state, was elected to be superintendent of the hospital. Doctor Reynolds, after having received a finished medical education, was employed for a considerable time as assistant physician in the Kings County Lunatic Asylum at Flatbush, New York, under the superintendency of Dr. Edward R. Chapin, where he had an opportunity to pursue his studies and to practice in the special department of the profession to which he was devoted. Afterwards he traveled in Europe, and visited the principal institutions for the insane in Great Britain and Ireland."

During Doctor Reynolds' superintendency the facilities for conducting the institution were very meager; the Legislature had not then realized the importance of providing many things that were absolutely necessary for the comfort and proper treatment of the patients. The management was compelled to practice the strictest economy in order to procure actual necessities for the institution.

The popular prejudice against an institution of that character was general. All these difficulties had to be met and it is doubtful if a better man could have been found for faithful and successful discharge of the duties of this position than Doctor Reynolds.

The management of this hospital for ten years is a monument to the ability, integrity and professional attainments of its first superintendent. During his administration, the duties and powers of the superintendent were fixed by statute, and were substantially as follows: He was the chief executive officer of the hospital; he had entire control of the medical, moral and dietetic treatment of the patients. It was his duty to see that the several officers and employes of the institution faithfully and diligently discharged their respective duties. He had authority to employ attendants, nurses, servants and such other persons as he might deem necessary for the efficient and economical administration of the hospital, and authority at any time to discharge any of them from service. He was also required to personally superintend the farm, grounds and all the property of the hospital. Doctor Reynolds fully comprehended the responsibilities of his position and it was his constant study and earnest effort to so manage the institution and to afford such treatment to the patients that the beneficent objects of this institution should be fully realized.

Doctor Reynolds died at his home in Clinton, on January 23, 1899.

The second superintendent of the hospital was Gershom H. Hill, M. D. He filled the position from December 1, 1881, until his resignation took effect, on July 1, 1902. The trustees in their sixth biennial report said: "Dr. G. H. Hill had been the first assistant physician of the hospital nearly all the time since its organization. He, therefore, brought to the work an intimate knowledge of its affairs. He had a personal knowledge of each patient and the peculiarities of his or her malady. He was also acquainted with all the other officers and employes, and knew all the needs and resources of the institution. The change, therefore, was not as great as though some new person, a stranger to all, had come into control."

Doctor Hill is now a resident of Des Moines, Iowa, where he is engaged as superintendent of a private sanitarium for mental diseases.

Dr. W. P. Crumbaeker, the third and present superintendent of the institution, has occupied the position since the 1st of July, 1902. Of his work in the years he has had control it is fitting that mention should be made.

First, Doctor Crumbaeker has abandoned almost all of the old-time methods of handling the insane. It has not been many years since the methods of caring for the mentally infirm were the subject of much criticism. In one way this criticism was just and in another it was not. In the light of the fact that present-day methods were not known, the system was excusable, but the other side of the question remains, that too coercive measures and too strenuous restraint were employed. Doctor Crumbaeker has abandoned all mechanical restraint, working on the theory that all necessary control of a patient may be accomplished by one or two persons, and for the exact length of time needed to quiet him, where by using mechanical restraint, such as the strait-jacket, crib, camisole and bonds, the patient would be submitted to probable injury, in that the mechanical means would hold him in subjection for too long a period and would thus work injury instead of benefit. This theory, of course, is new, but the results are highly satisfying and the time is not far distant when it will be employed universally in this country.

Another method introduced in the institution by Doctor Crumbaeker, is the use of female attendants and nurses for the men as well as women. At one

time the belief was that it was not safe to have women attendants for insane men, none but robust males, capable of subduing by physical force any outbreak on the part of the patients. The visitor to the institution today will be entertained by the sight of a comely woman nurse in charge of two score men patients, taking them out into the grounds for exercise and work, and directing them while in their wards. Doctor Crumbacker believes that the emotional quality and native sympathy of the woman has more effect on the male patient than the sterner will of the man. This has undoubtedly proved the case, for in no institution in the United States can there be found a better behaved class of patients and more freedom from unpleasant occurrences. In the wards where are kept the most violently disturbed males, however, men attendants are still employed.

Again, the system of employment for patients and recreation for them has been carefully studied by Doctor Crumbacker. On the hospital farm, in the conservatory, on the grounds, driveways, in the workshops, etc., the men are given the opportunity to work. The women are given household duties and taught to sew, crochet, embroider, cook and many other duties incident to a woman's life.

The management of the hospital passed from the board of trustees to the board of control of state institutions, by legislative enactment, the 1st of July, 1898.

The institution has a modern water plant, sanitary system, and other conveniences. A spur of the Rock Island Railroad runs to the institution, for the transportation of foodstuffs, fuel and other necessities. A library of several thousand volumes is open for the use of patients and employes alike. An amusement room and lecture room is another feature of the institution. Here lectures, religious services and motion picture exhibitions are given weekly, and once a week the floor is used for a dance, the music supplied by the hospital band. The conservatory is quite complete, having been added to at different times, until now it embraces space for all kinds of plants, flowers and vegetables. This building is under the charge of a competent gardener.



## CHAPTER XIX

### EDUCATION

EARLY SCHOOLS—EARLY EDUCATORS—THE PRESENT SYSTEM—OAKWOOD SEMINARY—  
INDEPENDENCE SCHOOLS—COUNTY SCHOOLS

The early pioneers of Independence were largely from the New England and eastern states and were imbued with the ideas that an education should be the first and primal consideration of an individual and that the community was in duty bound to give that individual the opportunity, in other words, the desirability of the individual was the community necessity. These inherited beliefs were deep rooted and no circumstances or surroundings could thwart the ambitions and endeavors of these pioneers to accomplish their ideals. So our forefathers soon after settlement began to plan schools but with no funds for school purposes and with no way to raise them the first schools were built and maintained with individual or community contributions. The first school in Independence was taught in 1848 and 9, by Edward Brewer. It was in a small log building, erected a little east of the present location of the Peoples National Bank, and twenty pupils attended, but owing to so much sickness (fever and ague) before the year elapsed the school had to be closed and the temple of art, learning and science was constrained to become a blacksmith shop, and for two years the urchins were allowed to roam the woods and wilds, free and untrammelled by the restrictions and artificial mannerisms of civilization and education. The first schoolhouse of any pretensions was erected in 1851 by William Brazelton at his own expense. It was of hewn logs, only 14 by 18 feet square and O. H. P. Roszell was the first teacher. Twelve pupils were enrolled. This sufficed only for a few years, for with the influx of emigrants more school room and better accommodations were needed. So in 1855 a brick one was built in the Third Ward, the building now standing on lot 1, block 15, Fargo's addition, and used as a residence. At one time forty-two pupils were accommodated in this one small room. Another on the east side was located near the courthouse.

As early as 1858, an item appeared in the papers urging parents to send their children to the two free public schools, one on either side of the river. Then a third one was taught in the upper story of the stone building now occupied by the Woodward Department Store. These three schools amply supplied the needs of Independence, but besides these several private academies and seminaries were well attended. The public schools to be sure did not teach the higher branches and were deficient in many of the essentials for education, so all who could afford to do so, availed themselves of the opportunities offered by these academies and seminaries. Elsewhere we have spoken of these private institutions.

With the establishment of the State Board of Education in 1857, and when it came into full operation in 1859, the school system which previous to that time had been carried on in a slipshod, haphazard manner, became systematized and gave the school directors some recourse as well as resource, also a backing and an authority. This was before Independence was incorporated as a city, and more than any other reason the better public schools proposition was primarily the cause for wanting it incorporated, and immediately measures toward that end were taken. Mayor D. S. Lee issued a proclamation in March, 1865, whereby an ordinance in relation to forming a separate school district in Independence should be voted upon, and the ordinance passed. The first school meeting for Washington Township was held on Monday afternoon, March 13, 1865, at the courthouse. Clinton Wilson was chairman and Mr. Robinson, secretary. It was voted to raise \$600.00 for a new schoolhouse in sub-district No. 7, \$800.00 for one in sub-district No. 8, besides \$110.00 for improvements in sub-district No. 1.

At the first school election in 1865, Rev. J. M. Boggs was elected president; P. C. Wilcox, vice president; Edward Brewer, treasurer; L. W. Hart, secretary; James Forrester, C. F. Leavitt and W. S. Chase, directors. It also was voted to delegate full powers to the board, which has continued till now.

In this as in all other necessary and progressive moves, the newspapers were the advance guard and fortunately the editors of both the Guardian and Civilian were ambitious, enterprising, progressive men, who boosted for good schools continuously and conscientiously, early and late, and finally educated the public to see the urgent demand of new and better school facilities. Not only for the benefit of the established population, but for the prospective population, who, with good public schools, besides all our other natural advantages and attractions, might be induced to locate here, and naturally these things attracted a better class of citizens. In 1865, the school board had determined to build at least one, and if possible two, new schoolhouses, one on each side of the river. For months there had been such a deficiency of school room that it was necessary to have two separate sets of scholars, one for forenoons and the other afternoons, in the school next the courthouse, and like arrangements would soon have to be made on the West Side. So in June, 1866, the school board voted to build the first schoolhouse on the East Side and large enough to seat 400 pupils, and establish a graded school.

Quite a bit of controversy ensued as to where it should be located, but finally it was agreed to build it on the block east of the Methodist Church, a site that was eminently adapted for the purpose, high and slightly, overlooking the whole town and fitly surrounded by academic trees, as the papers stated. The grounds consisted on only the four north lots, and it was not until 1865 that the contract to build the school was let to Mr. Samuel Sherwood for \$17,000. It was to be enclosed the first season and finished in eighteen months and in the summer of 1867 it was completed and a graded school established in it that fall, with five rooms and six teachers beside the principal.

The building was of brick, three stories high, besides a basement. It cost with furniture and fencing for the grounds about twenty thousand dollars. About five hundred dollars was spent on constructing the fence, sidewalk, grading and setting out trees. But this building proved inadequate and it was found necessary to hire additional school rooms besides occupying the old school building



near the courthouse. One school was held in the east lower room of the Morse Block just west of the Plunket Hotel.

The first records of the proceedings of the Board of Directors of the Independent District of Independence date back to March 16, 1868. On that date the following officers and members elect were qualified and took their seats: Albert Clarke, president; H. A. King, vice president; H. P. Henshaw, secretary; Edwin Cobb, treasurer; I. L. Winegar, director. James Forrester, D. S. Deering were the other members re-elected to serve on this 1868 board.

The board consisted of five members just as now, but then the secretary and treasurer took part in the deliberations of the board and voted. The names of the previous board and all of their transactions probably were not kept in record books and the pages have been scattered, or if in books they have been lost, for at this first meeting the secretary was directed to buy a suitable book for keeping the records and these are the first we have been able to find, although we have made diligent search. At this time the new school had just been completed and the principal business of this board was to pay the bills. Jerry Connelly was the first janitor at \$32.00 per month. Mr. Wilson Palmer was superintendent at that time and continued in this position until 1872. At this first meeting Miss Mary E. Dickson was elected as second assistant principal at a salary of \$350 per annum. Miss S. E. Homans, when the graded schools were established, discontinued "Oakwood," her private girls' seminary and accepted a position as principal of the grammar school at \$50.00 per month. Other of the early teachers were Miss Emma Butterfield, Miss Bowers, Miss Dickey, Miss Baldwin, Miss Deering, Miss Gillespie, Miss Kate Wilson and Mrs. P. H. Farr. The salary of each of these teachers was \$35.00 per month with the exception of Miss Homans, who received \$50.00 and the superintendent got \$150.00 per month. Compared with present wages and the difference in cost of living expense, this was a very good wage. In contrast to these wages were some of the janitor's bills, one for building fires and sweeping brick schoolhouse in the First Ward for term—seventy days at 10 cents per day. And this before woman's suffrage and advanced pay. Miss Wilson, afterwards Mrs. W. H. Chamberlain, and now a resident of San Diego, California, was the teacher of the West Side School. Mrs. P. H. Farr taught the Primary School in the First Ward. The names of Miss Fannie Mason (now Mrs. Rogers, still a resident of Independence), Miss Matilda Boardman, Mrs. Addie Lucky, Mrs. W. F. Reynolds and Mrs. F. L. Tripp were other names which appeared on the pay roll of the Independence schools. The furnace in this first building proved very unsatisfactory and a great deal of trouble ensued between the company from whom it was bought and the school board, but after months the differences were finally adjusted by the company agreeing to make it work according to the guarantee. The principal was authorized to admit tuition scholars in the grammar department until the seats were all filled, and also such other pupils as were willing to prepare for recitation outside of school.

The tuition was \$6.50 a term or 50 cents per week. The school board met at the new schoolhouse on the last Saturday of each month at 7 o'clock P. M. In the spring term there were eight tuition scholars in the Independence schools. The school terms were as follows: the fall term commenced usually about September 7th and continued ten weeks. After a vacation of two weeks, the winter term started the first of December and continued fifteen weeks, then after another two

weeks' vacation, the spring term began about April 1st and continued twelve weeks, or until about the last of June. This made thirty-seven weeks of school. The terms of the school year continued so until in October, 1871, the principal and teachers petitioned the school directors to change the terms as follows, to have the fall term commence on the first Monday in September, continue sixteen weeks. The winter term to commence two weeks after the close of the fall term and continue twelve weeks. The spring term to commence one week after the close of the winter term and continue twelve weeks, making a total of forty weeks. This petition was granted by the board. Just this same arrangement and length of terms was continued for many years. Now the time of starting and closing terms is governed entirely by the board and no set time is observed, just so thirty-six weeks of school are held. At the meeting September 28, 1868, a motion was made by Director Roszell that the school board purchase a site for a schoolhouse on the west side of the river, which carried. The price was not to exceed twelve hundred dollars, and by October 13th, a contract had been made with Allen Fargo for the purchase of block 22, Bartles second addition to Independence, where the West Side School now is. For the spring term of 1869, there were thirty-one tuition scholars—the tuition for the entire year averaged about three hundred and fifty dollars. The number of teachers had increased to nine and the schools to four, but with these four schools, the First Ward, the Morse's Block School, the new graded East side building, and the Third Ward School, there was still a scarcity of room so that scholars could not be advanced properly, and it was proposed by the board to borrow \$15,000 at a rate of interest not to exceed 10 per cent, to build a schoolhouse on the site they had purchased on the West Side. This building was to be of brick and capable of seating not less than four hundred scholars. This proposition when submitted to the voters carried. Also a tax of 5 mills on the dollar on all the taxable property in the school district. The plans adopted were similar to the schoolhouse at Manchester, and consisted of the main part 56 feet long by 36 feet wide, which forms the center now, and an east wing 14 feet wide and 32 feet long, both parts were three stories high. Mr. D. S. Deering was the architect.

Not until 1869 did the school board require the teachers to hold a first class certificate. Before this schoolhouse was built, more rooms had to be rented. In one room there were ninety-six pupils and only sixty-three desks.

The contract for this school was let to Messrs. Deering and Tyson for \$16,500—this being the least of four sealed bids submitted, but owing to a change in the roof plans they declined to build it for that amount. More bids were accepted and finally the contract was awarded to G. A. & M. J. Baker for \$17,850. Mr. Joslin was hired to superintend the construction of the building. The building was completed and in the fall of 1870 was ready for occupancy. Thereupon the First and Third Ward schools were closed and the houses and lots were to be sold, also the Morse Block School was discontinued. The First Ward School lots were sold to Buchanan County for the sum of \$600, the district to remove the building thereon and grade the ground; the building was sold for \$25. The Third Ward lots were sold to H. B. Brownell for \$500, possession to be given as soon as possible. E. S. Wilcox was elected the first janitor in the new building at a salary of \$30 per month and continued in this position for sixteen years, although he was transferred to the East Side Building

the next year with an increase of \$10 per month, making it \$40. After one year there he was transferred back to the West Side and back and forth from one side to the other several times. The following teachers were employed to fill these new positions: Miss Emma Butterfield held the place of first assistant principal, Miss Hester A. White (afterwards Mrs. Arch. Fisher) as second assistant principal, Miss Eliza Butterfield assigned to the second intermediate department, Miss Matilda Boardman in the first intermediate department, Miss Amanda J. Brown in the second primary, Miss Maggie Cooper in the first primary. These additional teachers raised the total number employed to thirteen, aside from the principal. Wilson Palmer was retained as principal of both graded schools at a salary of \$150 per month. Just two out of the fourteen teachers were men. The first foreign language to be introduced was in 1870, when German was added to the school curriculum of the "upper room," as it was then called. J. G. Schaible was employed to teach it at a salary of \$20 per month. The grades consisted of the primary, the intermediate and the grammar department.

The trees which so handsomely shade and adorn our school grounds were not a "happenstance" as we might be led to suppose, but were carefully planted and nurtured by our painstaking and far-sighted school directors of over forty years ago. One bill of \$50.60 for trees and labor was for 100 maples at 20 cents apiece and 32 elms at 25 cents, and another bill a little later of \$64 for trees, all of which had been planted in and around the East and West Side school grounds and then had to be properly boxed at an added expense, and this was not the last expense attached to the tree proposition as they were continually dying and had to be replaced. Then flower beds were added to beautify the grounds, on which the board expended quite a bit of money.

It strikes us that these early day school directors were a very generous, progressive lot of men and fully appreciated the beneficent effect of pleasant, comfortable and artistic surroundings. Organs were furnished the grammar grades, and numeral tables for the primaries, charts, maps, dictionaries and many other useful and progressive things were added to the equipment of the schools, the best and most comfortable curved back seats procurable, furnace heat, and pleasant, shady, decorated grounds in which to play—all were supplied for both the pleasure and profit of the scholars.

Some of the resolutions of the board in those early days seem rather peculiar now. One reads, "That no announcements shall be made in the public schools of this district of any concert, lecture, exhibition or entertainment given for pay, except such as are of a local character and given for charitable or religious purposes."

In 1872 the board appointed a special committee to revise the rules and regulations for the government of the schools. There were twenty-five sections to the document and many of these early rules obtain in the present form of government. One rule which differed from present school laws was Section 20, a part of which read: "No pupil shall be punished by being detained during recess or after school hours." In three months' trial of this the rule was amended by adding the following, "Pupils in the grammar rooms may be detained after school hours, not to exceed fifteen minutes." Years after the words "not to exceed fifteen minutes" were stricken out. This, too, must cer-

tainly have proved unsatisfactory, for, to the writer's certain knowledge it had become obsolete before 1885 or else was not in vogue with the teachers, at any rate an unenforced rule. Nowadays the teachers are allowed to keep the pupils after school hours either for discipline or to make up work. Another rule now obsolete is Section 25, which reads as follows: "Each department shall be opened by reading of Scriptures, but all questions of a sectarian character shall be carefully left out of the school." This requirement of Scriptural readings has been discarded and the selection of opening exercises is optional with the teachers. This was a great advancement, as the compulsory reading was very offensive to some creeds and engendered much opposition and controversy.

Another difference was in the school hours. The morning session commenced at 9 A. M. and closed at 12 o'clock, just as it has ever since; in the higher grades the afternoon session commenced at half past one and continued until 4:30 P. M., a half hour longer than it does now, but the primary and lower grades have been dismissed at different and earlier times. At this present term the high school begins its afternoon session at 1:15 o'clock. No allusion was made to corporal punishment; evidently this was left to the discretion of the teacher, and according to history they all firmly believed in the old adage—"Spare the rod and spoil the child"—and adhered strictly to that principle. In 1874 an additional regulation for the government of the schools, that corporal punishment shall not be inflicted on the day of the commission of the offense, but shall be postponed until the following school day, giving time for repentance to the pupil and reflection for the teacher. In 1884 certain specified punishments were forbidden. The teachers now are not constrained by rules in regard to punishment of refractory pupils but are supposed to maintain order and obedience and, if necessary, to enforce compliance to the rules, but to do so with moderate and reasonable methods. The superintendent adjusts most of the difficulties between teachers and pupils, and in the general advancement along all lines the discipline in the schools is much easier and better than it was years ago.

In March, 1872, E. W. Purdy's name first appeared as a member elect, and he continued a member for twenty-four years.

H. P. Henshaw, who had been the secretary from 1868 until 1870 was elected president of the board from '72 to '73.

In March, 1872, Wilson Palmer tendered his resignation as principal of the Independence schools, to take effect when his contract expired, in December, 1872. He had filled the position of principal for five years in a most satisfactory and conscientious manner and the school board regretted his departure.

James McNaughton was employed as principal for the year 1873 at a salary of \$1,500, but his health failed and J. K. Pickett was employed to fill the vacancy until Mr. McNaughton had sufficiently recuperated to resume the position, but the school board saw fit to employ him for the entire year.

Even so far back as the year 1872 the universal book idea was a vibrant issue. The county superintendent, Prof. E. H. Ely, had requested that the school board appoint one delegate to represent the Independent School District in a committee to meet for the purpose of selecting and adopting a list of text books to be used in all the schools throughout the county.

In September, 1872, a convention of county superintendents was held for three days in Independence and the grammar departments were closed one day for the county fair, as is customary now.

A night school of penmanship was conducted by W. H. Baker in the West Side Grammar Room in the fall of 1872, and one by K. Cameron on the East Side.

In 1873 the number of teachers had increased to fourteen besides the principal.

In January, 1873, the grammar schools became so crowded that pupils in the C class on the East Side were transferred to the West Side and the scholars on the West Side pursuing the higher branches were transferred to the high school on the East Side. Professor McNaughton made a number of recommendations to the school board, among them that books be procured in which to record the names of the pupils of the different departments and their promotions from time to time. That the teachers be required to make weekly reports and hold monthly examinations and report results to the principal.

That teachers' meetings be established to be held every two weeks. These were innovations in the way of conducting the schools, but the board adopted all except three of his eleven recommendations.

In the fall term of 1873, the first primary grade on the East Side was so crowded that only a portion could attend each half day and the high school classes were transferred to the grammar room on the West Side. The board concluded to employ two principals for the spring term of 1874, one for either side of the river; Mr. Picket was retained as principal, but only of the East Side School, and Miss Emma Butterfield of the West Side School. Mr. Picket officiated just one term in this capacity and W. G. Brainard was elected to fill the position at \$90 per month. Miss E. S. Homans was assistant principal of the East Side School and Mrs. H. A. Fisher of the West Side. Both principals and teachers were only employed by the term and each new term found a long list of applications to dispose of. (Now teacher's contracts are for the year.) In May, 1875, the board returned to their former policy of employing a "superintendent of schools," and L. W. Graydon was elected for the next school year at a salary of \$1,200. In May, 1876, he resigned and H. L. Grant, who had been assistant principal of the East Side Grammar Department for the term previous, was elected to fill the vacancy for the balance of the term, although the board was petitioned by the citizens of Independence to have Wilson Pabner appointed. At the beginning of that school year in September, 1876, the secretary took the school census and reported the number of scholars between the ages of five and twenty-one years was 1,210—males 561, females 649. He also reported that there is no record of the formation of the Independent School District of Independence. The secretary had been authorized to procure an abstract of these proceedings on account of Washington Township wishing help from the Independent District. (If said information had been properly recorded, it would have saved the present historian hours of research.)

About the year 1876 the board began to be more particular about the qualifications of teachers, and required them to pass examinations in such branches as the board prescribed. These examinations to be conducted by a committee appointed by the board. The committee appointed by the president

to examine teachers consisted of W. E. Parker, county superintendent; William Elden, and O. H. P. Roszell. Three grades of certificates were granted, one for primary, one for grammar and one for high school grades, but the two higher certificates required the holder to pass examinations in all the branches of the lower grades.

These grades were very similar to and embraced nearly all the branches taught in the country graded schools now. Probably the greatest difference was in the grammar grade, which then included a course in botany, English literature and elementary algebra, and two terms had been added to the course. The high school grade embraced natural philosophy, natural history of animals, botany, algebra, geometry and Latin. All scholars coming from other schools were required to pass an examination before a committee, which consisted of the principal of each school and a member of the school board. Now scholars are admitted on their credentials. Two sets of Chambers' Encyclopedia were purchased, one for each school, and various mechanical apparatus to facilitate study in the advanced branches. And although they were increasing their apparatus and school supplies, their heating apparatus in both schools was the poorest; both furnaces had given out and the board had resorted first to coal and then to wood stoves. For some unexplainable reason the board sold the coal (some of which was already in the bins) and the coal stoves and bought wood stoves in their place—although wood was \$5 and \$6 a cord and it took fifty cords a winter for each school. Not until 1876 were any printed blanks used in the public schools, every report was written out in full.

E. W. Elden became the next superintendent, being elected for the school year beginning September, 1876, and continuing until June, 1877, at a salary of \$1,500, and he was reelected for the next year for the same salary and the next at a reduced salary and each succeeding year thereafter they reduced his salary. He continued in office until 1881, but failed of reelection and three superintendents, one of each school, took his place. Probably at his suggestion the course of study was revised in the schools and one year's work was designated as completing a grade, and the promotions which previously had been at the end of each term were postponed until the close of the first month of the winter term, 1877. The first diplomas granted under this new system were to Maude A. Durham (now Mrs. C. E. Purdy), Helen A. Main and Adda P. Hammond in June, 1877. We have previously mentioned the following proposition which was submitted by L. J. Curtis on behalf of the directors of Washington Township "that the City District be at one-half the expense of putting up a schoolhouse on section 27 in the District Township of Washington, and when the house is so built that said section 27 be placed in the district township for school purposes." The question was submitted to the electors of the Independent School District of Independence, at their annual meeting in March, 1877, in the following form: "Shall the directors of this district issue bonds in the form specified by law not exceeding \$10,000 for the purchasing of suitable lots and erecting thereon a schoolhouse for the use of said district?" This proposition carried by a vote of 313 for and 130 against. The number of pupils of school age in the district had increased from 1,210 to 1,242 in one year and to 1,284 the next, and every year there was an increase, so more school room was soon to be, if not already, a necessity. So the board proceeded to hunt for suitable grounds for a new

schoolhouse. And in August, 1877, Block 14 of Bull's Addition was deeded by Mrs. Wilcox and Mrs. Pillsbury to the Independent School District of Independence for a consideration of \$4,500, issued in ten bonds at 8 per cent interest. A house and barn were on these lots, the barn was sold but the house was repaired and used for school purposes and the high school and a primary grade were moved to this school. Miss S. L. Angel was employed as principal of the high school and Mrs. J. M. Weart as primary teacher in the Wilcox School. This increased the number of teachers from fourteen to sixteen, although three teachers were added with the establishment of a high school. German had been dropped. This block also must have contained a superfluity of sand and timber for the board immediately began operations in retailing these commodities and thus leveling and improving the grounds.

On November 24, 1877, at a meeting of the committee appointed by the directors of Independent District of Independence to confer with the committee appointed from the Washington Township School District in relation to changing the boundaries of the district, it was agreed that the boundaries of the said Independent District of Independence shall embrace the following territory: The southwest quarter of section 26; the south half of section 27; the east half of the west half, and the east half of section 33; all of sections 34 and 35, in township 89, range 9; and the west half of section 2; all of sections 3 and 4, and the east half of section 5, in township 88, north, of range 9; the balance of the territory to belong to the district township. This change to take effect so that the land shall be taxed for the year 1878, as changed.

Clinton Wilson, Lyman J. Curtis and Milton House were the committee from Washington Township District; Jed Lake, C. M. Durham and E. W. Purdy were the committee from the Independent District of Independence. The second graduating class consisted of four members, Eddie Biggs, Anna Gifford, Mary Holdridge and Walter Stevenson, and upon this occasion a real graduating program was held. Hon. W. G. Donnan was invited to deliver the address and present the diplomas to the graduates. This was the initial graduating exercises, so far as we have found in the records.

Mr. Stevenson entered the city schools the fall after his graduation as assistant teacher in the high school.

An average of 80 per cent in studies was required before diplomas were granted. This per cent was reduced to 75, which it has been ever since.

That the school year be reduced from ten to nine months had been under consideration by the board for some time, several times the proposition was voted upon and lost, and finally in May, 1879, they voted to do so, probably as a matter of economy we conclude. But in 1880 the board voted to continue it 9½ months.

The course was for three years, as follows: First year—first half, reading with word analysis, English, grammar, algebra, physiology; second half, reading with word analysis, English, grammar, algebra, completed; physiology, followed by botany. Second year—first half, English, literature with word analysis, rhetoric, geometry, botany, completed; second half, general history, rhetoric, geometry, with logic; physics, completed. Third year—first half, intellectual philosophy, trigonometry and surveying, chemistry, zoology, lectures; second half, intellectual philosophy, science of arithmetic, geology, zoology, lectures.

Certainly this was a fine course, giving a broad universal education, more advanced than the high school course today, and with many studies now embraced in college courses. This was the only course offered, so it was compulsory for graduation.

At the annual meeting of the school district the following proposition was submitted to the voters, "Shall any language except English be taught in any of the departments of the public schools of Independence?" and the question was decided in the negative. Questions of this nature are decided by the board nowadays.

The first notice of an oratorical contest was in 1882—between the pupils of the high school. The school board appointed the judges.

Professor Elden, who had been superintendent for five years, failed of reelection and three superintendents were elected for the different buildings. Miss Mary H. Johnson, superintendent of the high school; Mrs. Martha Chapel, superintendent of West Side, and Miss L. C. Parker, superintendent of the East Side School. After seven months' trial this method proved very unsatisfactory, and in March, 1882, G. A. Graves was employed at \$100 per month as superintendent of the Independence schools, which position he filled for the remainder of the school year. There were only three graduates this year—Bert Smith, Emma Berger, and Will Woodward, and no graduation exercises. Miss Menza C. Rosecrans was elected for the next year at a salary of \$1,000 per year.

It was decided by the board to remove the third story of the West Side School building and make it a two-story building and to build on additional rooms. Work was begun in the summer of 1882. A two-story addition 32 feet wide and 40 feet long was built on the east side of the old main building.

The board were not through with the worry and expense of building the West Side Schoolhouse before more trouble assailed them. On the afternoon of the 22d of January, 1883, the East Side Schoolhouse burned to the ground and was a total loss. Rooms were secured and school resumed as soon as possible. The grammar grade held sessions in the Methodist Church. First and second primary grades held sessions in the Congregational Church, first intermediate at Scarcliff's store building and the second intermediate at the German Presbyterian Church.

The next spring the walls of the old building, which were left standing after the fire, were torn down to the foundation and work on the new building began that summer. It was voted to erect a building on the south side of the old foundation, just the same size as the old building, with a wide hall between large enough for stairways and wardrobes—this building is the Lincoln School of today. J. A. Phillips and H. Burlingham secured the contract by submitting the lowest bid, which was \$17,000, and to complete it by December 1, 1883. It was to be built of brick, have hot air furnaces and a good bell. Before the building could be erected, it was necessary to buy another lot in that block, so arrangements were made with N. J. Peek, owner of same, for \$700, and lot 4, block 8, of Scarcliff's Addition, became the property of the Independence School District. H. A. Hall was employed to superintend the construction. Superintendent Rosecrans at the end of the school year reported 865 pupils enrolled, with an average attendance of 610, and 16 teachers employed, with 9½ months of school.



The old saying that "the harvest is plenty but the laborers few" was reversed in those days, and the supply far exceeded the demand, especially for school positions, as shown in the great number of applications for every position. The board received seventeen applications for the superintendent's place this year (1883) and twenty the next year. And although there were so many applicants, vacancies were always occurring. Every school year there were numerous resignations by the teachers, often in the course of a term.

A. L. Free was employed as superintendent of schools for the school year beginning in September, 1883, but only continued in the position three months when he resigned. Miss Mattie Barnett was tendered the position at \$85 per month for the next term and was retained for the balance of that school year at \$100 a month and employed the next at a salary of \$1,000 a year. A normal music school was conducted by Mr. A. J. Goodrich in the West Side building in the summer of 1884. The teachers of the early days were fully as busy, if not more so, than they are at present. The board procured lamps for the new East Side building, so that the teachers' meetings could be held in the evening, their days were so employed.

Written examinations were conducted very often, as shown by the fact that the board in 1884 cut them down to two a term. These examinations were somewhat different than the written tests of today, as they counted more in the general average and the per cent of a passing grade was higher than at present.

Another oratorical contest was held in March, 1885. Frank Jennings, R. M. Campbell, and Mrs. (Doctor) Hill were appointed judges, and Stephen Tabor referee. The first scholarship and a certificate of honor of which we have record was offered by the president of Adrian College, Michigan, in 1885, for the pupil graduating with the most distinction, and was accepted by our board. Who the recipient of the scholarship was the school records do not state.

Graduation exercises were held that year in King's Opera House. There were twelve graduates and also an industrial exhibition of all the grades of the public school at the close of the year. This was the only thing of the kind ever given here—the Patron's Day and the exhibits at the county fair taking the place of it. This exhibition in 1885 was a grand success. The exhibits entirely filled the large main floor of King's old opera house (now occupied by H. R. Keagy of the People's Supply Company). The work exhibited embraced all kinds of work done by children, possibly as great a variety as we now see in school exhibits, but this work was not necessarily done in school, in fact most of it was done outside. Ribbon or rag prizes were awarded.

Miss Mattie Barnett as superintendent and Miss Lydia McDougal, who had been principal of the high school, both declined reappointment.

L. W. Parish of Des Moines was elected to the position of superintendent for the following two years at a salary of \$1,400 for the first year and \$1,500 for the second year.

In the year 1885 quarters were very cramped again, especially at the high school, so an addition one story high and about the size of the old building, was added until a better one could be built. All sorts of methods whereby the classes could be condensed and the room expanded were employed. Extra desks were put in the recitation rooms and permanent grades with teachers were established in them, three classes were put in each room; where a small number

of pupils attended the same grade, the East and West Side classes were consolidated, or if they persisted in attending school on their own side, they were compelled to drop back a half year in their work. Even the dressing rooms had to be used for class rooms and the high school held but one session a day from 8:30 A. M. till 1 o'clock P. M. The time of promotion of grades was changed from the third to the first week in January.

And this congested condition continued and increased, but the school board for some reason did not submit the building proposition to the voters, although they passed several motions to that effect, and one in regard to a county school building which evidently did not meet the approval of the supervisors. Seventeen teachers were now employed, three at the high school—a principal and assistant and a primary teacher—eight in the East Side and six in the West Side building. The superintendent also assisted with the high school classes.

That fall the board decided to increase the high school course from three to four years, but not to affect the prospective graduates of that school year. Trigonometry was dropped from the course and solid geometry substituted. The board also allowed the superintendent the use of tuition money to purchase school supplies. The greater portion of this money was expended to buy books for the school library. This year a business course was added to be optional in lieu of the course then in use. One typewriter was bought and this study introduced in the fall of 1887. Miss Alice Blood was employed to teach typewriting and shorthand. Five dollars per month was the generous salary.

Superintendent Parish gave notice to the board, after the expiration of this year, that he would not be a candidate for re-election, but at an increased salary was induced to sign a contract for three years at a salary of \$1,700 a year. Music was first introduced into the public schools as a study in the fall of 1887 and Louise M. Udall was the first instructor.

Another custom which was adhered to by the school board for years was to have the receipts and disbursements of the school district printed in all the city papers every year, at a considerable expense to the district. The school printing bills were a constant source of revenue for the papers.

Not until 1888 was anything done about building a new schoolhouse. When the proposition was submitted to the voters at the regular election in March, to bond the district in the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of erecting, heating and furnishing an additional building for the accommodation of the schools of the city upon the present high school lots, the proposition carried and H. A. Hall was employed as architect to draw plans and specifications. The building was to be let in three contracts as follows: Excavation and basement, brick and carpenter work, and third, painting. George Netcott, Sr., secured the excavation and basement contract to be completed July 1, 1888, and later the other contracts for the sum of \$7,225, to be completed by October 1, 1888, with a forfeiture of \$10 per day (Sunday excepted) for the time thereafter before completion and a premium of \$5 per day (Sunday excepted) for all the time completed before October 1st. The old high school building was sold for \$124. E. W. Purdy was employed as superintendent of construction.

While the building was in the process of completion, school was held in County Superintendent Parker's rooms at the courthouse for high school grades, and at the Methodist Church basement for the primary grade.

By the last of October, 1888, the building was completed and ready for occupancy. O. P. Sprague was the first janitor and continued his position there. Nineteen teachers, with the music teacher and a superintendent, were employed, and two more had to be employed for overflow grades in 1891.

In 1889 the question "Shall Latin and German be taught in this school district as optional studies?" was again submitted to the voters with an affirmative result. Rev. E. Schuette was employed to teach German for \$200 a year for 1½ hours per day of recitation work.

It was voted by the board to grant diplomas to Will M. Woodward and Robert Leach who had graduated some years previous.

Superintendent Parish refused to accept re-election by the board for one or more years and S. G. Burkhead was secured for three years.

Rules governing pupils with contagious diseases were made by the school board.

In June, 1891, the graduating exercises were held for the first time at the Gedney Opera House and an admission of 10 cents was charged to defray expenses. This was the first charge ever made for these performances. Nine hundred and sixty-nine people paid admissions.

At one time the school board adopted the waterworks whistle as correct time for school time, but some months later adopted Herrick's and Jones' as standard time. Rather strange procedure.

Physical culture was introduced into the public schools in December, 1891. The first woman school director was Miss S. E. Homans, elected in March, 1892.

In 1892 the teachers employed numbered twenty-one and the rooms were all so crowded that two over-flow rooms were conducted. So steps were taken toward building a two-room addition to the West Side building and a new four-room building on the East High School lots.

The proposition to bond the district in the sum of \$12,000 submitted to the voters passed, and George Neteott secured contracts for both buildings. The West Side addition was to be completed for the fall term and the new building by January 1, 1893, but was not completed until August, 1893.

The first piano purchased for the schools was for the high school in December, 1892, the money having been raised by the pupils with concerts and entertainments. Money to buy a piano for the grammar grades was raised in the same way.

Kindergarten classes were established in the schools in 1894.

In March, 1893, Superintendent Burkhead was again tendered the office and a contract made with him for five years at \$1,500 per year.

Not until January, 1895, were text-books in arithmetic used in grades below the sixth; lessons were put on the board. Teachers and janitors used to be hired by the term but this was done away with and contracts for a year were made.

In January, 1896, Mr. E. W. Purdy, an honored and capable member of the school board for twenty-four years, died while yet in office. A special session of the board was held whereat resolutions of respect, homage, and lament were adopted and placed on file and a copy sent the bereaved family. And as a further mark of respect, it was ordered that the flags on all the school buildings be kept at half mast until after the funeral and the schools were closed for the afternoon of the obsequies.

Not until about this year were bids for furnishing fuel and school supplies asked and this simplified matters to a great extent.

In October, 1891, Superintendent Burkhead complained to the board that Miss Kate Lalor, teacher of the fifth room, East Side, had been insubordinate. His complaint covered five charges of insubordination. Miss Lalor sued the district for the salary which would accrue to her in fulfillment of her contract. The board gave her a hearing and finding her guilty of the charges preferred, discharged her. She appealed her case and lost again. But the general sympathy of the public seemed to be with Miss Lalor and in 1897 a petition of the citizens asking for favorable consideration of the application of Miss Lalor was presented to the board.

Some dissatisfaction with the incumbent, Superintendent Burkhead, who held a contract for five years, was entertained and the position was declared null and void. Of nearly forty applicants for the position, Superintendent Buechele was the choice of the board. Supt. S. G. Burkhead sued the Independent District first for \$999.97 for six months' salary, then for \$3,000 two years' salary, in default of his contract which would not have expired until March, 1898. Charles E. Ransier was retained as attorney for the district and the verdict rendered was in favor of the district. This was a test case, to determine whether the action of the previous board in making a contract with a superintendent for more than one year was legal. The state attorney-general was the board's authority that it was not legal, so they proceeded to act on that advice.

Early in March the graduating class of 1897 "took the bull by the horns," so to speak, and sent a delegation to interview the board in person, and petitioned that the usual graduating orations be omitted and a lecture delivered by a prominent speaker substituted. Previously, no matter how large the class, each graduate was required to give an oration, which proved a very tiresome and unprofitable entertainment. This was a decided innovation then, but later graduating classes followed their initiative and many fine plays and other entertainments were the outcome, so the usual graduating exercises were dispensed with.

Superintendent Buechele was re-elected for the next year at \$1,300, and the following year for \$1,400.

To President Jemmings of the board belongs the honor of first suggesting that the schools should be named. A committee from the board was appointed to recommend names to the schools and the scholars voted for the choice, which resulted in the West Side building being named the "Hawthorne," the East Side "Lincoln," the new northeast building "Emerson," and the building on the west lots of that block was the high school, but since the new high school was built it is known as the Grammar School.

E. C. Lillie, an efficient director of the board, elected to the office in March, 1896, was appointed county superintendent in February, 1897, and resigned his office to make the change. Some years after he served again as director.

The board made a resolution in March, 1898, not to employ teachers who had not had experience in teaching. Before that, this was not necessary and graduates of the high school had been elected to positions.

When the Spanish-American war broke out several of the high school boys went to the front as soldiers, among them Frank Romig, who was a member of the senior class, so the board to show appreciation for his patriotic sacrifice,

passed a resolution that he be allowed to graduate, the same as if he had completed his course and that he be given a diploma accordingly. This was certainly a magnanimous act on the part of the board.

The fall term of 1898 found the high school so crowded that extra teachers had to be employed and a special drawing teacher was also employed that year, making twenty-four regular teachers beside the music teacher. The highest salary paid was \$800 per year to Miss Clara Travis, principal of the high school, and the lowest was \$25 per month, but this was only for half day's service. The average salary was \$46. In 1901, the number of teachers had increased to twenty-seven, with a special writing and music teacher.

In September, 1898, Mr. Jennings, president of the board, died and Mr. M. W. Harmon was elected to the office.

In November, 1899, the board passed the following resolutions: that teachers be prohibited from accepting any presents from their pupils while in the employ of the board and from presenting any gifts or prizes to their pupils; and the pupils be forbidden to make any collections for the purchase of presents for teachers. This did away with the usual Christmas giving and was a wise move.

In March, 1900, the board bought a fine new physics apparatus for the high school that cost \$350: this was the first one of any value that the school had possessed.

On the night of September 25, 1900, the high school mysteriously took fire, doing considerable damage. It was thought to be the work of malicious incendiaries—the mutilated books, piano, and other school furniture testified to this fact.

Arrangements were made to have classes outside until the damage was repaired—two rooms at the courthouse and the Munson Building were secured for the purpose. In May, 1902, pianos were first put in the grammar rooms on both sides of the river.

In August, 1902, the city council conferred with the school board in regard to vaccination, and it was concluded the board of health recommend it, there was so much sickness prevalent. In February, 1903, the schools were closed for two weeks on account of so many cases of scarlet fever in the schools.

The board first appointed a truant officer in 1902.

In the spring of that year there was talk of building an addition on the high school and remodeling the interior of the old building to accommodate the steadily increasing classes. Netcott and Donnan, architects, were employed to make plans and estimates. The cost of the addition was estimated at \$15,750 exclusive of plumbing, heating and blackboards. A special election was called for May 18, 1903, for the purpose of voting upon the following question, "Shall the Independent District of Independence, Iowa, borrow the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of building an addition, and taking such an active interest in the better facilities of the schools, to the high school building?" This proposition carried by a vote of 443 for and 394 against—of which total (837 votes) the women cast 322 ballots—189 for and 133 against—the men cast 515 votes—254 for and 261 against—which figures prove that the women's vote carried the proposition. Then the citizens, taking this matter under more mature deliberation, were not satisfied with this proposition and largely through the instrumentality of Mr. R. E. Leach, a petition signed by 170 residents and voters was presented to the board

as follows: "Shall the Independent District of Independence instead of borrowing the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of building an addition to the high school building, borrow and bond the district for the sum of \$43,000 for the purpose of purchasing a site for and erecting a new high school building, more centrally located than the present one, and further request that in case our petition be granted the polls for election be kept open from 1 P. M. to 7 P. M.?"

The second election was called for June 22, 1903, and the proposition to rescind the former action of the election and build a new high school submitted to the voters was substantially the same as the petition. A great deal of opposition to this proposition was entertained, and Messrs. Lake and Bemis, on their own initiative, got out a ballot with the proposition of the school board divided into two separate questions. The first to rescind the proposition to borrow \$20,000 to build an addition to the high school, and the second to bond the district for \$43,000 to build a new high school. These ballots were lavishly distributed to the voters and great excitement and intense feeling was manifest in this election. The women turned out en masse and were even more interested and did more real electioneering than the men. Needless to say an exceptionally large vote was cast, as follows: Total vote 959, of which 563 were cast by men, 396 by women. Men voted 209 yes and 90 no. Women voted 185 yes and 76 no, and there were 398 Lake and Bemis ballots cast, of which 382 had both yes and no written thereon, and sixteen had a variety of answers.

The school board counted only those ballots authorized by their resolution and the question submitted passed by a vote of 394 for and 166 against, but the ballots issued by Messrs. Lake and Bemis polled such a large vote and almost unanimously in opposition to the new school proposition, voting in the affirmative on the first question and in the negative on the second, that the board, not wishing to get into any litigation or run the risk of injunction proceedings, and further not wishing to incur so much dissension, did not proceed with the issuing of bonds and the matter was dropped for the time being, only to be brought up later with more satisfactory results.

The next move was to procure more room for the constantly increasing overflow. A room was finally secured in the old Wengert Brewery Building, other classes were held in the Emerson Building and extra teachers had to be employed. The brewery school was named the McKinley School. This was a most inconvenient and unsatisfactory way of conducting the high school and not only that, but positively injurious to the health of the pupils. Such congested, poorly equipped quarters and the necessity of pupils from the high school going to and from classes in the Emerson Building in all kinds and conditions of weather and not being properly protected, certainly was a menace to the good health and was the cause of much sickness. In the spring the school in the Brewery Building was discontinued and the third and fourth grades in the Emerson Building were discontinued and the room vacated was used for high school purposes.

In March, 1905, applications for superintendent were entertained, a change in superintendent being desired, Professor Buechele having held the position for nine years, being elected superintendent in July, 1896, during which time the school system had made no real progress.

Mr. Edwin Dukes was elected superintendent, salary to be \$1,500, and re-elected at a salary of \$1,600.

A school publication called *The Maroon and White*, was conducted for several years by the high school pupils, begun in 1903. It was a very creditable little magazine issued monthly, spicy and up-to-date in its literary productions and artistic in its design, with clever illustrations, covers, and contents, contributed by the versatile scholars, two of whom, Miss Alice Carsey and Mr. Leigh Toman, have made an enviable reputation for illustrating, designing and painting. Miss Carsey in Chicago, and Mr. Toman in New York City. Advertisements solicited from the merchants helped pay for the expense of material and printing. E. W. Raymond was the publisher. Besides the paper, to attract and hold the attention of the pupils in school affairs, a high school orchestra was another live issue and much interest was manifested in it. The board generously rented a room and a piano for their use for practice, and rehearsals. This orchestra added greatly to the attractiveness of school life, as well as to the school entertainments.

A fine new Kurtzman piano was bought for the high school, also a fine stereopticon lantern and 100 slides of Dr. Russell Backus.

Under the supervision of Professor Dukes, a new regime was instituted in our public schools, a new system of marking and courses of study, new methods of school administration and government were installed. The schools which previously were only accredited with the small colleges, were brought up to the standing required by universities. By action of the board, although the course of study remained the same, the number of credits required for graduation from the high school was raised to thirty, to conform with the requirements of the state university. Before this, pupils had been graduated with as few as eighteen credits and a number of them with less than thirty. In this way the schools greatly deteriorated in standing.

A public declamatory contest to compete for the honor of taking part in the declamatory contest of the northern district was held in Independence in the spring of 1906. This was the first time that our schools had ever competed in a contest of this kind. Professor Seerley, of State Normal School, Hon. C. M. Pickett, of Waterloo, and A. M. Cloud, of Manchester, were invited to act as judges and accepted the honor. Ralph Hasner was the winner in the contest.

The Woman's Relief Corps very generously and patriotically asked the board to be allowed to place flags and staffs in all the school rooms and requested that the teachers be requested to care for the same, and the board very generously and patriotically granted them their request.

A petition was presented the school board, signed by thirty-nine residents, asking that a school be established and maintained in the First Ward schoolhouse for the third and fourth grades, as it was too great a hardship for pupils of tender years to be compelled to go from the north end of the city to the Second and Fifth Ward schools. So these children were allowed to attend their respective grades in the Lincoln Building. Every grade was crowded full but only twenty-three teachers were employed, which was less than at a previous time.

Mammal training was first introduced into the Independence schools in January, 1907, in a simple way. It was further extended the next year and a room was fitted up in the Lincoln School basement with five benches, tools, and apparatus for this work. New scientific apparatus, a cabinet of geological specimens and a shower bath were purchased for the high school.

The board concluded that a male teacher be employed as principal of the high school, so Mr. E. V. Brumbaugh, late principal of the Marshalltown schools, was elected at a salary of \$1,000 per school year.

The foreign language courses were lengthened to four years under the superintendent's advice.

In 1908, the standard of teachers was again raised, requiring high school teachers to have a college degree.

In March, 1909, the superintendent received a letter from the inspector of high schools of the State University, reporting that the Independence High School was placed in the accredited list of the North Central Association of Colleges and High Schools.

In 1909, the corps of public school teachers numbered twenty-seven, a physical supervisor was employed to give the pupils physical training, and special equipment for recreation and exercises, such as teeters, swings, etc., were put on the several school grounds, and an active interest in basket ball and other gymnastics was manifested by the older pupils.

A resolution of the board which caused quite a bit of consternation, especially to the sweet girl graduate, was to the effect that at the graduation exercises of 1910 the girls be required to wear plain, inexpensive uniformed dresses and that the boys be required to wear neat business suits. This measure was really an act of self-defense instituted by the long-suffering, over-burdened parents, many of whom had complained bitterly of the extravagance and exorbitant expenses entailed for their children's graduation, but nevertheless the measure incurred the board much censure and abuse.

In January, 1910, it was determined by the board to again present the question of a new high school to the people at the annual election of directors. The two questions as submitted were for the issuance of bonds in the sum of \$43,000 for school purposes, and the second, against the issuance of bonds in the sum of \$43,000 for school purposes, and the proposition carried by a vote of 586 for and 318 against. A far larger majority of the women voted for the proposition than did the men. H. E. Neteott, president of the board, resigned his office for the purpose of submitting plans and competing as architect for the new building. His plans were approved and a contract was entered into with him as architect for plans and specifications and supervisor of construction. Then the question of locating the new building was a source of much discussion and controversy. The board did not propose to use any considerable sum of this \$43,000 toward purchasing a site and thus cripple their building fund, leaving an inadequate sum for a commodious, up-to-date building that would meet the requirements of this district. And realizing that a separate block was greatly to be desired they proposed leaving it to the public-spirited citizens to raise a fund of \$5,000 so that the board would feel disposed to contribute the balance toward a desirable site, this proposition to remain open until May 12th. Otherwise the new building would be constructed on ground now owned by the district. The present site and the Stout Block were mentioned as very desirable places but no fund being forthcoming, a motion to build the new schoolhouse on the Lincoln grounds, also one to build it on the old high school grounds came before the board but were lost. Another, to offer \$8,500 for the Z. Stout property carried. Another motion to offer for lots 3 and 4, in block 10, Stoughton and McClure's second addition to



Independence for the sum of \$2,000 and for the remainder of block 10 in the same addition for the sum of \$4,000, and to the lumber company for their leasehold, the sum of \$250, and in case the offers be rejected, begin condemnation proceedings for the purchase of the above named properties (the site on which the school was built). This motion prevailed and the property was condemned and bought at appraised value; the owners complied with the mandates of the statutes and deeded the district the property. Some litigation ensued regarding the leasehold of the lumber company who refused to accept the appraised value of the lease, brought suit, and were awarded damages in a less amount than the appraisers had fixed.

Bids for constructing the building were received in July, 1910, and George A. Netcott received the contract for \$47,900 (\$24,050 lower than any other bid) and this amount was deducted, \$2,920.60, for changes in specifications, and by leaving the auditorium, domestic science room, and two class rooms unfinished. Lewis & Kitchen Company, of Chicago, secured the heating and ventilating contract and the Fort Dodge Heating and Plumbing Company the plumbing.

In October, 1911, Mr. George Netcott, the building contractor, made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors and W. E. Bain, the assignee, and Mr. Netcott's bondsmen refused to complete the building, so the board took charge of the finishing, and work was continued until its entire completion under the personal supervision of Mr. Chappell, the president of the board. The school was occupied for school purposes in September, 1911, but not completed until spring and the grading and fixing of the grounds is being done gradually and already they are beautiful and artistic.

Superintendent Dukes, having declined reelection in March, 1910, Supt. J. E. Foster was secured for the position at a salary of \$1,600. He was reelection at a salary of \$1,700 and served in that capacity until February, 1913, when he was made state high school inspector and resigned, and Prof. Robert Reinow was employed to fill the vacancy.

Physical examination of pupils is, we think, a splendid feature introduced into city schools in recent years, and the Independence School Board adopted the idea for a trial, but great opposition to this measure prevailed and the plan was dropped; only a dental examination was made. It was not a compulsory measure, was without any expense attached, and was only intended as a benefit to the child whose parents or guardian either are ignorant of or neglect his physical defects; and the physician's diagnosis is only a recommendation of treatment and not a "grafting scheme" as some are inclined to believe. Manual training and domestic science are taught in the seventh and eighth grades, in the simpler forms, such as plain construction work in wood and hand-sewing.

After the completion of the new high school, a grammar school, consisting of the seventh and eighth grades, was established in the old high school and four teachers put in charge. This was a splendid idea to separate the grammar grade pupils from the lower grades; gave the much needed expansion and many advantages that children of those ages should have. The only possible objection was the distance from some parts of town and a petition from the citizens requested that this school be abolished and those grades be reestablished on both sides of the river. After discussion and consideration the board concluded to continue as before. Three dozen dumb bells, Indian clubs, and two volley

balls were purchased for use in these grades, and the fine dumb bell and Indian club drills given at the school exhibitions showed how accuracy, attention, alacrity and physical training can be developed with simple apparatus.

Superintendent Foster introduced the idea of having each school present a public entertainment once a year, in place of the usual grade exercises and holiday or "last day" programs. This plan has been followed ever since and some unusually fine productions have been put on. The last year's, 1914, plays, "Bee Bee" and the "Merry Milk Maids" were unusually well presented, and the high school play, "Cupid at Vassar," was exceptionally good, reflecting much credit on the teachers and superintendent, as well as the pupils themselves.

At the end of the school year, Professor Reinow was reelected as superintendent, but resigned to accept the position as dean of men at the State University, so Prof. John L. Cherny was employed and is still serving in that capacity, and if the present rate of progress of our schools continues as it has under his able, efficient and progressive management, it is to be hoped that the next historian shall still record his achievements as superintendent of the Independence public schools.

This sketch would be very incomplete without a brief description of our high school, the pride of our city. It is a beautiful building of massive and substantial architecture, modern, artistic and complete and reflects great credit to the architectural ability of H. E. Nettott, the designer. It is conceded to be the finest building in the state in a city the size of Independence. Many visitors, school boards, and prospective builders, have come to see this building and were much impressed in their admiration of its beauty and completeness. There is nothing that attracts families, that is, of the desirable and progressive kind, more than good schools, and certainly our high school, with its splendid advantages and extensive course of studies, has been a great attraction, as attested by the large enrollment of the present year. The location and surroundings of a building add or detract in a great degree and the high school fortunately has few detractors, and is "exactly the right spot," in the general consensus of opinion, although it was very hard for people to see it that way when that location was first in contemplation. Situated along the river, it is a slightly place, overlooking the business streets, both bridges, and up and down the Wapsie, and the grounds, since they have been grassed and laid out by a professional gardener, have wonderfully improved the general effect. The building is three stories, built of brown pressed brick, with "raked out joints," Bedford stone sills and water-tables, terra cotta trimmings and red tile roof. It faces the west. It has an expansive vestibule entrance, the front embellished on either side by large brick columns, extending the full height of the building. Similar vestibule entrances are on both the north and south sides.

As you enter the building from any of the three entrances, you ascend broad concrete stairs (all the stairways are of concrete) which open into a spacious hall extending north and south through the building. This hall is eighteen feet wide and considered one of the most beautiful parts of the building. On the first floor is located the assembly room, where 275 pupils can be comfortably seated; on either side of the assembly room are two spacious class rooms; across the hall, two class rooms of like proportions and the library and superintendent's office with a small waiting room in front of the office proper. On the second

floor are situated the auditorium and two class rooms exactly corresponding in size to the assembly and class rooms below on one side, and two class rooms, including the commercial and science department, and a girls' rest room across the hall on the west. Both the superintendent's office and rest room have lavatories.

It has been the plan of at least one of the women's clubs of this city to furnish the girls' rest room, and a fine russet leather davenport was the first donation given by the Chautauqua Literary Circle. Other gifts are intended.

In the basement is located the gymnasium, 50 by 70 feet, same size as the assembly room and auditorium, and adjacent to the gym are the boys' and girls' lockers and toilet rooms, the domestic science room and what was formerly the manual training room (until the accession of the Munson Building for that purpose), but now converted into a sewing room. Both of these last named rooms are the size of the two class rooms above. The furnace and boilers are in concrete rooms built adjacent to the building.

The equipment in the high school is of the best and most modern available. The heating and ventilating is by a new scientific and absolutely sanitary process called the blast system. The pure, cold air from outdoors is forced by a seven foot fan into a plenum chamber where it is heated and then forced into the different rooms. The temperature is regulated by automatic thermostats and the air in all the rooms is changed ten times every hour.

The building is also equipped with a vacuum cleaning system which sucks the dust and dirt into the furnace, where it is burned.

It is profusely lighted with electric lights. In the auditorium the ceiling is studded with handsome fixtures. This room is equipped with 424 opera chairs, a spacious stage, a very handsome stage curtain and some scenery. There are four entrances to this room. The gymnasium has a cement floor and quite an amount of athletic apparatus which is constantly being increased.

The boys and girls each have a shower bath and lockers convenient to the gymnasium.

The toilets and lavatories are of the most modern, sanitary, and approved kind.

The domestic science room is equipped with a gas range and stoves, tables, and kitchen utensils to accommodate twenty students; cupboards, full of all necessary and convenient articles for kitchen use, sink and drain boards, refrigerators, and a complete set of dining room furniture, dishes, silver, table linen, and all the appointments needed to serve a scientific meal in a scientific way.

In the sewing room are eight fine Singer machines. The manual training department, now located in the Munson Building, is well equipped with twenty carpenter's benches, a turning lathe, and all necessary tools. The commercial department is equipped with eight Remington and Underwood typewriters and the science department has all the necessary apparatus for experiments. To be sure, the equipment is not as complete as desired, but the board supplies every need as speedily as possible with the funds available. This year they introduced printing into the schools and propose to publish a school paper.

The Munson Industrial School Board and the board of education entered into a contract whereby the board of education agreed to conduct an industrial school in the Munson Building in accordance with the terms of the will of Perry

Munson, and in consideration thereof are to receive the income from the endowment fund which was left for that purpose by him. The industrial branches which at the present time consist of manual training and printing are now conducted in that building. The printing equipment consists of a fine up-to-date machine newly installed.

In March, 1914, a rule was adopted by the board that will still further tend to improve the standing of the schools, as follows: "No elementary school teacher shall be employed in the public schools of Independence who does not hold a certificate, and who has not had educational preparations equivalent to that of a fully accredited Iowa high school, and, in addition thereto, either a course of professional training, covering a period of two years in a standard normal school or teachers' college, or two years' successful teaching experience in a system of graded schools employing not less than six teachers under competent supervisors."

There are nineteen regular teachers employed in the grades besides the music teacher and twelve in the high school besides the superintendent.

In the fall of 1914 the Palmer System of Writing was introduced. At present there are 756 pupils enrolled in the public schools of the Independent District, of which 110 or 115 are tuition pupils. A more diversified course of study, more competent teachers, or better accommodations can not be found in the state than in the Independence High School.

It is fully accredited, both by the State of Iowa and the North Central Association of Colleges. The very high standards set by this association have made it possible for only a few schools in Iowa to become members. Thirty-two credits are required for graduation, and credits are only given for work completed and satisfactorily done. Ten courses are embraced. They are English, Latin, German, mathematics, science, history, civics, etc., commercial, normal, manual arts, printing, etc., domestic arts.

The normal course was introduced into the schools in 1911, and in 1912 the state superintendent designated it as a normal training school under the law, whereby it receives state aid provided by statute.

And besides the regular studies, the student activities, the literary societies, of which there are three this year, 1914, the Girls' Glee Club, the Boys' Glee Club, High School Chorus, orchestra, debating, declamatory and athletic contests afford ample opportunity for recreation and general development.

There are 249 pupils enrolled in the high school—ninety of which are tuition pupils.

Twice has the Independence High School entertained the Cedar Valley Track and Declamatory Meet, once in 1913, when the Independence High School Athletic Association secured the cup by winning the greatest number of points in the athletic contests and second place in the declamatory contest—and in 1914 secured an enviable reputation as good losers and fine entertainers if not cup winners, although to do justice to the students, our high school won several pennants in the athletic contests and third place in the declamatory contest.

The recent achievements of our high school students certainly justify the vast expenditure of money which the taxpayers have been called upon to make for their benefit. They have made a name and a place in history for our high school. They have competed in athletics and won honors in declamatory con-

tests, and finally capped the climax by securing the coveted cup in the state debating contest. Messrs. Harry Christianson, George O'Toole and Raymond Townsend constituted the champion team. It took six successful contests to acquire that honor. They first debated Clinton, then Strawberry Point, Guttenburg, Sigourney, Fort Dodge and Le Mars.

The first four debates took place in the high school auditorium, the one with Fort Dodge at Iowa Falls, and the final debate with Le Mars at Iowa City. The State University presents a handsome silver cup to the champion debaters and "our boys" won the title and the prize.

The interest and excitement shown in these debates was something to be wondered at, in such a usually staid and prosaic community as Independence, but with every fresh success of our team the interest and excitement waxed more and more intense.

When the champions came home laden with the silver cup and with laurel wreaths upon their brows, the enthusiasm knew no bounds. An immense delegation of citizens on foot, in carriages and per automobiles, with the band, banners flying and horns tooting assembled at the Rock Island depot on Saturday A. M. to honor our returning heroes; alas and alack, the fates had ruled otherwise, and the expectant crowd were greeted with the triumphant smile of the president of the board and those loyal supporters who had accompanied the debaters to battle. Great as was their disappointment, their ardor could not be dampened by so trifling a miscalculation of events and heroes' modesty, so not to be thwarted in their plans, they again assembled with reinforcements to meet the 6 o'clock train and this time their patience was rewarded. As the train approached the band played "Hail to the Chief." Only two of the debaters braved the ordeal, the other preferred the unidentified seclusion of the city and remained in Cedar Rapids until the enthusiasm had somewhat subsided. But these two brave ones were triumphantly borne aloft on the shoulders of the general populace to a star spangled automobile, with Raymond's band in the lead discoursing patriotic and spirited music, followed by dozens of automobiles crowded with people waving flags, banners and blowing horns, the triumphal procession started on a grand parade which extended over the entire city and continued until the last spark plug refused to ignite, so to speak, and finally ended in a monstrous bonfire on the high school campus.

The citizens had planned to present the debaters a silver cup that night to show their sincere appreciation of the boys' success, but a cup good enough to satisfy the donors could not be procured this side of Chicago, which necessitated more time, so the public presentation was held in the high school auditorium. Messrs. A. N. Todd, H. W. Oliver and M. O. Foutz were the citizens' committee, and these gentlemen were largely responsible for the success of the undertaking. Reverend Loeke made the presentation speech; Reverend Morning also gave a fine talk, and H. C. Chappell, president of the board, Professor Cherny and the three debaters responded on behalf of the school and the debating team.

The following is a list of the presidents and secretaries of the Independent District of Independence:

Presidents—Albert Clark, from 1859 to 1869; Dr. H. B. Bryant, from 1869 to 1870; O. H. P. Roszell, from 1870 to 1872. H. P. Henshaw was elected as president from 1872 to 1873. Judge O. H. P. Roszell was again elected in 1873

and continued in office until December, 1875, when he resigned; W. G. Donnan was elected in his place but declined and G. M. Bemis was elected to fill the vacancy. G. M. Bemis resigned in December, 1876, and Jed Lake was elected to the office and served until March, 1880, when C. R. Millington was elected president. He served until March, 1882, and resigned, when E. W. Purdy was elected to serve. In 1883 Jed Lake was again elected as president. He continued in this capacity until J. E. Cook was elected president of the board in March, 1885. He held the office until 1888, when H. W. Holman was elected and continued as president until 1893, when J. E. Cook was again elected and continued in office until 1896, when Frank Jennings was made president. He died while in office. M. W. Harmon was elected in 1898 and served for eight years, when in March, 1906, R. F. Clarke was elected president and held the office until 1908, when H. E. Neteott was made president and served until March, 1910, when he resigned and H. C. Chappell was elected and has continued in office since then.

The secretaries have been—H. P. Henshaw was secretary from March, 1868, to March, 1870. James M. Weart was secretary from 1870 to the fall of 1874, when he was killed by the accidental discharge of a gun on Thanksgiving Day. D. S. Deering was elected secretary to fill this vacancy and held office until March, 1879, when Rufus Brewer was elected for the balance of the year and continued in office for fourteen years, until September, 1893, when George Woodruff was elected and he has continued as secretary ever since.

The present members of the school board are H. C. Chappell, president; S. A. Wilson, M. A. Smith, P. J. Shiehan and M. O. Foster.

George S. Woodruff is secretary and J. T. Barnett, treasurer.

#### OAK WOOD SEMINARY

Among the early educational advantages of Independence, Oak Wood Seminary, a high school for girls, deserves especial notice. This school filled a deeply felt want during the time which elapsed between the establishment of the old district schools and the public graded schools which have supplanted them. For ten years it performed a service to the community which can never be fully estimated. In those days, when higher educational opportunities were only obtainable in the eastern colleges and not considered of specially vital importance for young women anyway, this school brought those advantages and refinements within easy access of all, and many are the graduates of that school living today who can testify to the beneficent results of that early training and of the refining and uplifting influence which those two noble women, Mrs. H. A. Woodruff and Miss S. E. Homans, exerted over their pupils. This school was started in the fall of 1857. That summer Miss S. E. Homans, who had been for some years a teacher in Washington, D. C., and other eastern cities, came to Independence to examine into the feasibility of establishing a girls' seminary here. Finding the prospect favorable, she wrote her friend, Mrs. H. A. Woodruff, to come and join her in the enterprise. Mrs. Woodruff accepted the proposal, and they rented a small frame building owned by T. W. Close, which stood on the east lot of where the stable is now, and there the new seminary was temporarily opened. Their success was so decided that they deemed it safe to purchase a lot and erect

a more commodious building. They therefore bought a lot on Hudson Street upon which was built during the summer of 1858, a large two-story frame house, the upper part of which was arranged for the school, and the lower for their residence. This building is still occupied by Miss Homans and Mr. and Mrs. George Woodruff for a home (Mr. George S. Woodruff is a son of the former teacher and organizer of the school).

The school was transferred to this building in the fall of 1858. The institution was regularly incorporated under the name of Oak Wood Seminary and some of the leading men of the city constituted its board of trustees.

Mrs. Woodruff was teacher of music, French and English literature, and Miss Homans of mathematics. The school was very successful, especially during the last five years of its continuance, the average annual attendance of pupils being fifty. Its patrons were confined mostly to Buchanan County and largely from Independence. Although this school was primarily for young girls, a few boys were admitted for a short time.

When the public graded schools were established in Independence in 1867, the need for the seminary ceased and it was discontinued, and Miss Homans took a prominent position as principal of the Grammar School, which position she held, with some slight intermissions, for nine years (until 1876). It would be most interesting to know the names of those early graduates, but unfortunately no records of the school have been kept. The proprietors deeming them of no consequence, destroyed their books and only in the newspaper accounts of their public performances can we judge of the scope and influence of their work in the community at that time.

#### THE BUCHANAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

The records of our county schools, previous to 1858, are exceedingly meager, and nothing really authentic in these, most of the data and facts being furnished by the oldest inhabitants who must trust solely upon fading recollections which oftentimes plays us false. The school system of Iowa, if system it may be called, previous to 1859, was by no means favorable to complete and accurate records, and even less to a careful preservation and arrangement of such records as were made. The only county school officer previous to 1858 was the school fund commissioner, and his duties, as the title indicates, pertained rather to the care of the school land and funds than to any supervision of the schools themselves. There was no inducement or precedent to urge him to keep records.

The first school ever taught in the county was at Quasqueton in 1844 by Alvira Hadden. The first one taught in Independence was in 1848 and 1849 by Edward Brewer. In 1850 there were but three schoolhouses in the county, all log buildings. One was at Quasqueton, where the largest settlement was, one on Pine Creek, in Liberty Township (then called Spring), and one near the John Boon place and was the only school in Washington Township (which included the whole north half of the county and a little more). There were only three civil township divisions in Buchanan at that time (Washington, Superior, and Spring). This school was taught by a Miss Ginter in the winter of 1848-49. Although few in number, these four schools were plentiful enough for the few and scattered scholars who might attend.

In Independence there were but three families and only two children old enough to attend. There were three families on Otter Creek (at what was afterwards known as Greeley's Grove in Hazleton Township), but only one child of school age, while in what is now Buffalo Township there were but two families.

In Newton there were a few families but no schoolhouses, and the same is true of Jefferson Township and Cono. The townships now called Madison, Fairbank, Perry, Byron, Fremont, Middlefield, and Homer were as trackless and houseless as the ocean, as was also Sumner, with the exception of one building occupied by Isaae Ginther. In Liberty Township, then Spring, there were probably about a dozen families and they boasted a schoolhouse; at Quasqueton, about twelve or fifteen families, and a schoolhouse. The first schoolhouse in Independence was erected in 1851 by William Brazelton at his own expense. It was hewn logs and about 14 by 18 feet square. O. H. P. Roszell taught the first school in it and had twelve pupils enrolled. The building stood on the lot now occupied by J. W. Lamb's implement house, south of the Commercial Bank.

The architecture of these school buildings was of course the crudest and most primitive, all built of unhewn logs with board seats against the wall on three sides, with a continuous desk of rough basswood, this being soft, and easily worn smooth by friction (and also easier for whittling purposes). These back seats were for the larger scholars, while the smaller ones were accommodated by rows of plain, backless benches made of oak slabs. The fourth side was devoted to the large fireplace, flanked on either side by the entrance door and the woodpile. The paraphernalia consisted of a few books furnished and selected by the school master from his own usually meager library and devoted to the benefit and advancement of all the scholars, regardless of age or mental capacity. The Bible was largely used for a text book for spelling and reading lessons, and sometimes a dictionary was added to the equipment, and always either the birch, the hickory, or the strap or the cat-o'-nine-tails was a necessary and essential adjunct. No blackboards, maps, globes and all the other necessities of today. This type of building was typical of all newly settled counties, and remained in use for many years. These first schools, however crude and inadequate, certainly produced some wonderful scholars, and the average intelligence of teachers in the early days was far superior to the average of more recent times, this due in all probability to the fact that these pioneer teachers were educated in Eastern schools where school advantages were good and education considered paramount.

The names of these early teachers honor the pages of history, and among them there is many an illustrious name. The record of their achievements and result of their unremunerated labor is compensated and perpetuated in the fulfillment of their dreams and prophecies, the grand public school system of today—of which these early beginnings were the acorn from which sprung this mighty oak—the very heart and center and pivot of our national supremacy.

In the winter of 1850-51 a school was taught in the schoolhouse near Boone's for three months with an attendance of between twenty and twenty-five pupils, coming from a radius of two miles and more, and as an illustration of the interest manifested in education by these early settlers was the evening spelling school which brought together both old and young, not only from Otter and



Pine creeks, but as far as Hazleton and Quasqueton. And a few attempts by the teachers to lecture upon interesting subjects filled the house to overflowing, and this at a time when there were only seventeen families in the whole north half of the county. During that same winter schools were taught at Quasqueton and on Pine Creek. The next winter schools were conducted at these places and one at Independence, two or three families having moved here during the year 1851. This was taught in a log building formerly occupied by Rufus Clark, the first settler in Independence, and originally proprietor of the town site. The building stood in the street, but streets and lots were then in their wild and natural state, so thick with underbrush that only a surveyor could distinguish the difference between lots and streets. This school was taught by Mrs. William Bunce, a resident of Hazleton Township for many years, and a splendid, intelligent teacher she was.

During the year 1851 more families immigrated into the county and settled in and near Independence, and so a schoolhouse was deemed a necessity. And to William Brazelton belongs the honor of erecting the first schoolhouse and at his own expense—truly, a philanthropic and public-spirited man and more deserving of credit and gratitude than a John D. for the gift of whole universities and institutes of science.

This building, like the rest, was crude and small, being only 14 by 18 feet, built of basswood logs, hewn on two sides, and stripped of bark, which was unusual, but the donor was determined that this schoolhouse should be a credit to the community and worthy the name of school. And Providence seemed to favor the venture, for the state superintendent, Hon. Thomas H. Benton, Jr., visited Independence just as it was nearly completed and lectured in the new building. Every citizen turned out to hear him, which gave him an audience of fine quality, if not of such great quantity. This was indeed a proud day for Independence. Judge O. H. P. Roszell taught the first school and had twelve pupils enrolled. The building stood on the lot now occupied by J. W. Lamb's implement house.

In 1852 a schoolhouse was erected in Hazleton Township, at a place afterwards known as "Coytown," where the first white men in that township, Samuel Sufficool and Daniel C. Greeley, had located in 1847.

From this on immigration increased, and many of these newcomers hailing from old rock-ribbed New England, where schools and churches left their marks of advanced civilization behind them. As soon as there was a settlement of a few families in a neighborhood a schoolhouse was built. These early pioneers naturally followed the streams and timber lines and there built the first schools, as at Fairbank, Littleton, down the Wapsie between here and Quasqueton, and below Quasqueton, on the Buffalo, on the branch of the Maquoketa, in the north-eastern part of the county, and on Otter and Lime and Spring creeks. As early as 1855-56 there were eleven and twelve schoolhouses in the county, one in Madison, one on Spring Creek in the south part of Newton Township, one near Brandon on Lime Creek, another in the western part of Jefferson, one near Fairbank and another a few miles below that; still another in the north part of Hazleton Township, and one at Buffalo Grove, a brick one at Independence, and an additional one at Quasqueton. Probably the best one in the county was built at Quasqueton in 1857, a very commodious building, a portion of it two

stories in height and an additional room in a wing—three rooms in all—and here was held the second teachers' institute in 1859. In the next succeeding years the immigration greatly increased and the schoolhouses correspondingly, and frame buildings began to be put up, not alone because the increase of population and wealth demanded better buildings, but because logs were inaccessible to the prairie communities and often proved more expensive than sawed lumber.

No record of the number of schools or school children was made until 1858, when the law provided for the election of a county superintendent. Judge Roszell was the first incumbent, being elected in April of that year, and only from that year on can we refer to records for school statistics. On November 14, 1858, the Board of School Directors voted to make the county superintendent's salary \$500 per annum. This salary seems to have been considered a generous one, as the following comment in the *Civilian* in regard to it would indicate: "Although we do not advocate excessive pay to public officers, we believe this action by the board was entirely right. To do justice to the office, as Mr. Roszell has done, makes it as arduous as any in the county, and we can see no reason why the compensation should not be as much." An item in the paper of that date states that the public schools on both sides of the river in Independence are free to all scholars, and they would advise our citizens to send in their children, as it will cost you no more money and not half so much washing as it will to have them play in the dirt (this before the days of compulsory education and better and more inducements). At that time the county was divided into civil townships much as it is now. The superintendent's record for 1858 shows the total number of school children in the county to have been 2,445; the total number attending, 1,015; twenty-nine schools and twenty-seven schoolhouses, and in only two districts was there more than one term taught during the year. Of the twenty-seven schoolhouses fifteen were frame, three brick, one stone and eight log. Less than half the school children attended school, but this was largely owing to lack of schoolhouses within their reach. Up to this year, 1858, the old system of schools prevailed. There was no particular provision for the examination of teachers; it was only provided that the individual school boards were to be satisfied of their abilities and morals. Their pay was derived from a rate bill, except as far as the interest of the public funds distributed sufficed. The term ended and then the real labors of the teachers began. The interest on the public school fund was apportioned as now, and divided among the several districts in proportion to the school children therein, and this money was used to pay the teachers in part, the remaining wages to be collected from those parents who had children in school on a rate bill apportioned according to the number of days' attendance. This rate it was the duty of the district clerk or secretary to collect, but the collection of this was a matter that involved not only time and trouble, but often expense and a vast amount of tact and patience, and many times was utterly impossible. Some families had, perhaps, moved into another district or out of the county entirely; others sent their children but had no money to pay tuition, and this fact could not very well be ascertained until after the benefits had been both bestowed and derived. The clerk (entirely an honorary position) had no great interest in the collection and no disposition to hurry business; he usually felt no concern

in a just compensation for labor received, which did not enter into his official obligations, or his "political scheme of life." "To the laborer belongs his hire," provided he can get it, was universally conceded perfectly proper, as far as the poor teachers were concerned, and more frequently than not did his services go unrewarded and unappreciated. Invariably would he have to do the clerk's work of making out the rate bill and then spend the entire summer fruitlessly trying to inveigle or pry loose that munificent salary of possibly \$12 per month for the previous three months' winter term, and not the worst part of the collecting of salaries was the custom of boarding it out, which was never very satisfactory and oftentimes very disagreeable. Many of the old teachers who taught previous to 1859 had nothing to show for their labors except those outlawed and uncollectable school orders for souvenirs or mementoes. The Constitution of this state, adopted in 1857, provided for a State Board of Education, consisting of one member for each judicial district, together with the governor and the lieutenant governor. The first election for this board was held in October, 1858, and the first session was held in December of that year. It was a distinct legislative body with power to legislate on school matters only, and its first legislation was the adoption of our present system of free public schools modified to comply with advanced needs. The new law went into operation in 1859, and was hailed in this county with almost universal satisfaction. This legislative enactment of the General Assembly seems to be a very full and comprehensive one, embracing fifty-one sections and covering every phase of public or common schools (as they were then called).

This act caused some trouble and complications, and the Supreme Court of the state decided that said act was unconstitutional and void in many of its provisions, but elections had been held, contracts made, taxes levied, schools taught and teachers employed, so it was necessary to pass an act to legalize and confirm this act and this was done fully and effectually. In consequence of this first act being pronounced illegal by the Supreme Court, the school officers of Buchanan County met to discuss the propriety of continuing the schools which were then in operation, and they wisely concluded to do so. And then the Board of Education legalized the act of the Legislature. We do not see how they could have legalized an illegal act, but stranger things than this have happened in legislative matters, things which would puzzle a Chinese mandarin, but this was a matter of expediency, and we quite approve their presumption. Mr. Roszell, county superintendent at that time, was elected a member of this State Board of Education, and during its sessions had aided in the adoption of the new system, anticipating, however, much opposition to the radical change it made. The unanimity with which the people of this county approved its provisions was therefore especially gratifying to him and did honor to the intelligence of the people here. In November, 1858, the school board voted to increase the county superintendent's salary from — to \$500 per annum. O. H. P. Roszell was the incumbent at this time and was a most efficient, capable man in the office.

The report of the superintendent in 1859 shows a total of 2,532 school children in the county and 1,745 attending school, a decided increase in the percentage of attendance over the previous year, which is explained by the fact that during that year there were taught in the county sixty-six schools, though

the number of schoolhouses had only increased to thirty-one, being an addition of four during the year, so schools must have been taught in other places than schoolhouses, many of them in private dwelling houses, vacant or occupied; one, in Newton, was held in an attic, one in a wagon shop, vacated for that purpose and fitted up by Mr. Albert Riseley; one, in Byron, in a granary of John Trillock's; one, in Buffalo, in a spare bedroom of a house; and one, in Hazleton, in a cellar kitchen at Isaac Suffeool's.

In those days the standard of qualifications were not high, but as far as they went we should say that they were excellent, judging alone from the evident intelligence of their scholars (manifested in the public affairs of that day in the correspondence, etc.). Their education was not so advanced or so varied, being confined principally to the three R's—but certainly a splendid foundation for the requirements of those times. The diversified education of today does not necessarily mean a well-balanced, practical one, and it is a very noticeable and a lamentable fact that the earlier generations of scholars used a far more extensive vocabulary and had a better command of the English language. This may be disputed, but we judge largely from their correspondence. O. H. P. Roszell, as county superintendent, advertised in the papers of 1858 that he would give examinations to teachers on certain days. This was the first notice of that kind.

The first certificate to teach was granted by the county superintendent in 1858 to Miss Mary Preble; the fourth and fifth to Misses Emma and Eliza Butterfield, who taught in this county and elsewhere for many, many years, and were well known by the older generation, both residing here until their death. Miss Emma died but three or four years ago. Eighty-three examinations were made that year and the same number the year following. Some were refused certificates and some who procured them did not teach. Among the names in the list of teachers examined that first year are many men and women who afterwards became prominent in this county's affairs, and many were fine teachers.

The first teachers' institute was held at the courthouse in Independence in 1858. There were about forty teachers in attendance, and at that institute was formed the Teachers' Association, which held meetings annually for many years, and in 1870 numbered over two hundred members. The second county superintendent was Mr. Bennet Roberts, who was elected in October, 1859, but shortly resigned, and C. E. Lathrop was appointed to fill the vacancy and continued in office till October, 1860. His successor, Mr. S. G. Pierce, who so long and ably filled the office and to whose ability and zeal the advanced condition of the Independence schools were largely indebted, was elected in 1860, reelected in 1861. In 1863 George Gemmell was elected and held the office two years when Pierce was again elected and held the office continuously up to 1871, when he was succeeded by E. H. Ely in 1871, who held the office three years. In 1873 Amos Rowe succeeded Ely for two years, and in 1875 W. E. Parker was elected and served for twenty-three years.

In the year 1861 the number of schools in Fairbank had increased to four, with 179 pupils in attendance; Buffalo had two schools, with fifty-six pupils; Hazleton had six schools, with 253 pupils; Madison seven schools, with 173 pupils; Fremont had two schools and fifty-four pupils; Byron had four schools and 101 pupils; Washington nine schools, with 315 pupils; Perry one school and

forty-five pupils; Westburg had neither house nor school as yet. Sumner had two schools and forty-two pupils; Liberty, eight schools and 297 pupils (three of these schools were taught in one building); Middlefield had three schools; Newton, eight schools; Homer, two; Jefferson, seven; making a total of seventy-six schools in the county; forty schoolhouses, with an attendance of 2,090, out of a total of 3,138 school children. The total value of school buildings at that time was reported as \$6,999. There were four brick buildings, two of stone, twenty-four frame and ten log.

Then the war broke out, and progress was in a measure retarded, especially in the building of schoolhouses, but nevertheless there was a steady growth, as shown by the report of 1864, which records the number of school children had increased to 3,435, and the number attending school, 2,855—the number of schools, 120, and houses, 59, valued at \$14,688. In 1865, immediately after the war, the number of school children had increased to 4,062; 3,040 attending school, 106 schools, 64 houses, worth \$17,000. Since then the progress has been gradual and permanent. In 1867, the first Union Schoolhouse (whatever that means) was completed, and the first graded school organized in Independence. Skipping the intervening years with their natural and steady progression, the terms of school then were short and hence necessarily incomplete—about three months was the extent of each term. About the middle of March the winter term closed and about the first of May the summer term commenced. School closed with appropriate exercises, just such as we now have. Mr. Wiltse was the teacher in the early sixties and had been very successful and satisfactory to everyone. Miss Anna Kinsley had charge of the primary school on the east side of the river and Louise Bryant on the west side. Even at this time the idea of longer terms was being advanced. The editor of the Guardian proposed and strongly recommended, that Independence should build a good Union graded school, hire the best of teachers by the year, and the school taught at least eleven months, as was customary in the public schools of the large cities. Already the appreciation of public schools and universal education was gaining advocates.

The officers of the public schools of Washington Township comprised a district board, consisting of president, secretary and treasurer, with sub-directors from the various districts, seven in number. In the year 1862, W. G. Donnan was president; Edward Brewer, secretary; R. Campbell, treasurer.

Independence at this time was considered to be very well supplied with schools, having the district or Union School, one on the West Side and one on the East Side, a select school, kept by Rev. William Poor and a young ladies' seminary, by Mrs. Woodward and Miss Homans, known as Oak Wood Seminary. All these schools were well attended and this shows that the inhabitants took a laudable interest in education. Also a school was conducted in the upper story of the A. H. Fonda (now the W. M. Woodward) Block. Mr. Wiltse was the first teacher. Miss Kinsley taught the East Side primary and Louisa Bryant on the West Side. Many other private schools were conducted in the early days and all seemed to prosper. Another private school, known as the English and Classical Institute, was conducted by Reverend Boggs (the Presbyterian minister) and Rev. J. D. Pering, a graduate of the University of Indiana. This school was for young men and the branches taught were the common and higher

English branches and Latin and Greek languages. The tuition for a twelve weeks' term was \$4.50 and \$5.50. Mary Dickinson opened a private school in Independence—teaching the common branches—tuition was \$3.00 a term. A Mrs. Wells and a Miss Redfield also conducted private schools over the stores. At Littleton, Rev. F. D. Caldwell had opened a school for young ladies and gentlemen, known as Pleasant Grove Seminary, with himself and two other teachers. As one of the inducements to this school, as stated in the Guardian, besides Mr. Caldwell's fine qualities and ability was "the pleasant and picturesque scenery, the mild and salubrious climate, the good society, the men strong Lincolnites, women ditto, and everything else propitious for the establishing and upholding of a good school." Messrs. Baldwin and Calvin conducted a private academy for instruction in all branches of English studies and special preparatory work for college. Another "select" school was conducted by Prof. Brigbee, and at one time he had 103 pupils enrolled for the fall term. C. H. Taylor had a penmanship school, the course was twelve lessons for \$1.50. Mrs. Redfield was another of the early instructors of a private school and probably there are some whom we have omitted, but the general impression that school advantages were extremely scarce is disproved by this partial list of the most prominent private schools.

Examinations for teacher's certificates were conducted after institute and also every month and conducted publicly; and it was customary for the school directors to come to these examinations to secure their teachers. During institute the teachers were generally entertained by the generous and hospitable residents. In those early institutes often the president and county superintendent, with some assistance from the teachers present, conducted the classes and the lectures were given by prominent and learned men of the county and proved to be as instructive as many of the imported products. To show the advancement in school discipline we cite this incident. A Mr. Smith was the teacher for the winter term in 1862, and serious and continual trouble arose between himself and the scholars to such an intolerable degree that it threatened to break up the school, so he was forced to resign and his place was filled by Mr. Wiltse. But the peculiar circumstances were that the parents and even the newspapers upheld such proceedings and corruption of discipline and remarked that everybody was admirably suited with the change and thought things would be perfectly harmonious thereby, and so far as we were able to judge, it was purely a matter of personal prejudice against Mr. Smith and the fact that they preferred Mr. Wiltse.

In 1863, and two or three years thereafter, the Teachers' Institute convened at Quasqueton, then it was transferred back to Independence, where it has met continuously until 1914, when the new school law went into effect.

Not until 1864, did the School Board of Washington Township lengthen the school term from six to eight months and an extra summer school in District No. 3, at the house of Mr. Caldwell.

In 1863 Independence had three schools, the Union School, taught by Mr. Calvin, the East Side, taught by Mrs. Gillett, and the West Side, by Miss Garrett. The first real move toward the erection of a good public schoolhouse, "suitable to the needs of Independence," was the announcement in the Sep-

tember 22d issue of the Guardian, that a public meeting would be held at the courthouse for this consideration.

In 1865, Jesup had a large, commodious brick school, two schools were taught at Fairbank, one on the East Side and one on the West Side, and one at Otterville—a splendid school in a miserable house, was the general verdict. In 1870, another schoolhouse was built at Jesup, at a cost of \$6,000.

The number of schoolhouses in the county (in 1872) had increased in eight years from 124 to 142, and the one log schoolhouse had disappeared. The value was \$116,700. At that time but one log schoolhouse remained in use. The number of school children was 6,416, and 243 teachers employed that year. This, compared with 1850, when there were but three schools, all log buildings, or with 1858, when there were 27 buildings and 29 schools, and 2,445 school children in the county and only 1,015 attending, and in only two districts was there more than one term taught during the year. Of the twenty-seven schoolhouses, fifteen were frame, three brick, one stone and eight log.

For some years the Teachers' Institute was held twice a year, in the summer and the winter (generally in February), and usually conducted in the Independence public schools, which necessitated the schools being closed. At such times the teachers were entertained and the schoolhouses and all the apparatus were loaned for their use. Then it became the custom to hold Township Institutes. One was held at Winthrop for the accommodation of teachers in Byron, Fremont, Middlefield and Liberty townships, one at Fairbank and one at Quasqueton, Brandon and at Mudville.

The theory that there is nothing new under the sun gains weight with a person delving in history. The county high school is not a new one as might be supposed. In 1870, a state law had been passed that such a school could be built provided that a majority voted for it. In 1870, at the Buchanan County Teachers' Institute, which convened at Independence, in November, 1870, the project for a county high school was launched. Resolutions were adopted by the institute—petitions were circulated and the county papers were earnestly supporting the proposition. Very interesting debates on the question were launched and although these furnished excellent reading matter, it did not seem to influence the general public at least in its favor, for when the proposition was voted upon in 1873, it lost, the vote standing 256 for and 1,954 against. In 1880 there were 6,745 school children and 285 teachers.

The Buchanan County schools have progressed, not by any rapid strides, but with a slow, steady growth, and average up with the rest in the state.

In February, 1897, after a service of almost a quarter of a century, Supt. W. E. Parker resigned. At that time he had the distinction of having the longest continuous service record of any superintendent in Iowa, and had proved himself to be one of the most faithful and zealous workers in his profession. Failing health compelled him to take this step. In slight appreciation of his tireless devotion and faithfulness to the performance of his duties, the county officers presented him with an elegant gold-headed cane.

Mr. Ed Lillie, an active member of the Independence School Board, was appointed to fill out Professor Parker's unexpired term. Mr. Lillie served most efficiently for four years, introducing many new features and ideas, which attracted the interest of people to school interests. On December 4, 1897, a

County Teachers Association was organized. Eighty teachers were in attendance. The county was divided into seven districts with a manager for each district. These county conventions and district meetings were very profitable. Superintendent Lillie was succeeded by M. J. Goodrich in 1901, who continued in office for three years. After Goodrich, P. C. Arildson succeeded to the office in 1906, and the present incumbent, G. R. Lockwood, has been in the office for four years. He has inaugurated many excellent and progressive ideas for advancing the school system, among which are the county spelling contests, public graduations from the country schools, the exercises being conducted in the Independence High School; county directors' meetings and elementary agriculture, with corn tests and prizes for gardening.

According to the report of the county superintendent for the term ending June, 1914, there were 147 schools in the county, and but one new one built last year; several others are in contemplation. Thirty-five of this entire number have modern heating and ventilating systems. In the graded public schools there are 51 teachers in the county, and 1,482 pupils, and 372 pupils in the high schools, a total of 1,852.

There are 203 teachers in the county; an average wage of \$49.27 for women and \$79.61 for men.

Total enrollment in the county is 4,551, and average attendance is 3,351, and the average cost of tuition per month for each pupil is \$3.14. The total valuation of the schools in the county is \$282,434. Total number of volumes in libraries of schools in the county, about twelve thousand. Only one consolidated school in the county and that located at Brandon. It employs five teachers and there are 121 scholars.

In 1913, at a meeting of the county school presidents, the county superintendent was voted an assistant, to have charge of the office when the superintendent was otherwise engaged—heretofore it was necessary to close it.



## CHAPTER XX

### FRATERNAL AND SOCIAL LIFE

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE—TEMPERANCE—RELIGIOUS—SOCIAL—LITERARY—MUSICAL  
—AGRICULTURAL

#### MASONIC BODIES

Before a railroad had reached Buchanan County or the valley of the Wapsipinicon had been settled by the thousands who now occupy it, the few Masons of Independence and vicinity determined to avail themselves of the benefits of the organized form of Masonry. They accordingly petitioned the grand master for a dispensation, which was granted by John F. Sanford, grand master, April 16, 1856, and the lodge worked under the dispensation with the following officers and members, who were the petitioners for the dispensation: John Bogart, W. M.; John C. Ozias, S. W.; John Smyser, J. W.; John W. Westfall, secretary; P. H. Plais, T. W. Close, I. S. Freeman.

On the fourth day of June of the same year the Grand Lodge of Iowa granted a charter to the said brethren, under the name of Independence Lodge No. 87. At that date the names of 2,114 Masons were borne on the rolls of the several lodges in the state. This lodge was regularly constituted under the charter, by P. M. Keeler, on the 18th day of June, 1856, and so prosperous had the lodge become, that they had built and furnished a new hall, which was, on the 31st day of December, 1857, dedicated to Masonic uses by District Grand Master L. B. Fleek. This hall was occupied by the lodge until 1872, when it was torn down for the purpose of erecting other buildings.

The new hall, which had been erected upon the ruins of the old, being completed, the same was duly dedicated to Masonic uses on the 24th day of June, A. D. 1873, by Joseph Chapman, grand master of Iowa. This hall was among the largest in the state, and was furnished in a substantial manner, and the lodge was supplied with all the necessary furniture for the work of the lodge.

This lodge room was occupied less than one year when the fire fiend having a special spite against the City of Independence laid in ruins the greater part of the business portion of the city; and, with the rest, the Masonic Hall. The loss to the Masonic lodge by this fire was about fifteen hundred dollars, upon which there was an insurance of \$1,000. All the property of the lodge was burned, except the records and a part of the jewels. This fire occurred on the 25th day of May, A. D. 1874.

The present membership of the Blue Lodge is 156.

In December, 1909, the Independence Masonic lodges purchased the John Wengert lots on East Main Street, on which were located the T. O'Toole grocery establishment and also a frame storeroom just west of the O'Toole place. The consideration was \$1,800, which was considered a bargain, as the property is located in the business section of the city. It was the intention of the Masons to erect thereon a handsome Masonic Temple for the accommodation of the local lodges of that order.

The lease of their present quarters in the Burlingham & Phillips estate buildings, on Main Street, expired in 1913, but it was afterwards concluded to remain in their present quarters and the lots were subsequently sold to John Wise.

The Masonic brethren have occupied their present quarters since November, 1874. The lodge was organized in 1856, and so prosperous had they become, that they built and furnished a new hall which was dedicated on December 31, 1857. This hall was torn down for the purpose of erecting other buildings. A new hall erected upon the ruins of the old was dedicated to Masonic uses June 24, 1873. It was destined to be occupied for less than a year, when the fire fiend, which had an apparent spite against Independence, laid in ruin the greater part of the business section of the city, and with the rest, the Masonic hall. This fire occurred on May 25, 1874, and on November 18th of that year, the lodge commenced its labors in the hall now occupied by them. In the intervening time the Masons had met in the Wilcox Building, which was located farther west on that side of Main Street and for a short time, whenever it was absolutely necessary, it had convened in what was known as Stoughton Hall, located on East Main Street. They now occupy one of the most attractively furnished and completely fitted lodge rooms in the city.

Ahohiab Chapter, No. 21, at Independence, Iowa, commenced work under dispensation issued by E. W. Eastman, G. H. P., December 25, 1857, and their first meeting was held January 2, 1858, with the following officers:

G. Warne, H. P.; J. B. Thomas, C. H.; J. M. Westfall, K.; E. Brewer, P. S.; W. O. Smith, S.; T. B. Bullem, R. A. C.

The other members were J. Smyser, J. C. Ozias, J. M. Miller and B. D. Reed.

On the fifteenth day of October, 1858, a charter was granted to said chapter, and the same was duly constituted by Kimball Porter, grand king, on the twenty-fourth day of November, 1858.

The chapter has had its home in the same hall with the lodge, and therefore shared in the losses by fire in common with the lodge.

There are, in 1914, eighty-five members of the chapter.

Kenneth Commandery of Knights Templar at Independence was organized under a dispensation issued October 10, 1877, to W. G. Doman, H. S. Ames, H. O. Dockham, B. G. Taylor, E. Brewer, J. A. Poor, J. S. Anderson, D. S. Deering, E. W. Conable, H. Ely, R. Creighton, J. P. Percy, R. S. Undyke, and J. Rhodes.

The commandery worked under a dispensation one year, and on the seventeenth day of October, 1878, a charter was granted, and the commandery was numbered thirty-two on the register of the grand commandery and was duly constituted by F. Neeley, R. E. G. C., on the fifth day of November, A. D. 1878.

with the following officers: W. G. Donnan, E. C.; J. A. Poor, G.; E. W. Conable, E. G.; J. S. Anderson, president; R. Brewer, treasurer; D. S. Deering, recording secretary; B. G. Taylor, S. W.; H. S. Ames, J. W.; E. O. Craig, St. B.; J. H. Plane, Sw. B.; H. O. Dockham, W.; A. Woodruff, sentinel.

At present there are fifty-eight members.

Captain Holman, a past member of this lodge, once held a state office, the nature of which is not known.

#### KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

On May 3, 1879, a number of men met at the law office of Seth Newman for the purpose of organizing a subordinate lodge Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Newman was made chairman, C. A. Gilliam, secretary and H. P. Brown, treasurer.

A petition was secured and the matter of a name arose. Among the names suggested were Crescent, Protection, Empire, Occidental, Orient, Vincent, Iowa and Wapsie. A ballot was taken and Wapsie was the choice, but on May 4th, at another meeting, it was decided to change the name to Creseent, the lodge thus becoming Crescent Lodge, No. 46. J. A. Vincent was elected, P. C. C.; Seth Newman, C. C.; W. Westerman, V. C.; G. B. Warne, prelate; C. A. Gilliam, K. of R. & S.; R. M. Campbell, M. of F.; H. P. Brown, M. of E.; O. D. Burr, M. A.; S. S. Toman, I. G.; E. S. Wilcox, O. G.; and J. S. Woodward, O. M. Gillett, and B. W. Tabor, trustees.

The lodge rented quarters of the I. O. O. F. in the third story of the McGowan Building until 1884 or 1885, when the rooms now occupied by it were rented.

In 1894 and 1895, R. B. Raines was elected grand master of exchequer and in 1901, O. M. Gillett was elected grand chancellor.

The lodge has always been one of the showy fraternal and social organizations of the county and now have 120 active members.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

Independence Lodge, No. 142, I. O. O. F., was organized at Independence, July 25, 1866, with but six members, viz.: W. H. Barton, P. G.; E. A. Alexander, W. P.; T. J. Marinus, Joseph Evers, Eli Ozias and M. Winters. A charter was granted on the 17th of October, 1866. Their first officers were: W. H. Barton, N. G.; E. A. Alexander, V. G.; Eli Ozias, secretary; Joseph Evers, treasurer.

On May 25, 1874, this lodge lost its charter, books and regalia in the great fire of that date. They immediately obtained a place of meeting, sent for regalia and went to work, and by autumn of that year were occupying an elegantly furnished hall. On October 22, 1874, a new charter was granted.

The local lodge of Odd Fellows is one of the strongest secret organizations in Independence. At the time of starting this small lodge of six members took upon itself an obligation of \$600 for paraphernalia and lodge furniture.

For five years after organization it occupied what was known as Stoughton Hall. From there it removed to the third floor of the Wilcox Building, near the river, where it remained until the fire of 1874, which destroyed all that

business portion of the town and in which it lost everything, with the misfortune to have had but small insurance. After the fire the lodge moved into the rooms adjoining its present quarters, which were occupied until it could gain possession of and fit up the rooms which it now occupies. An encampment was organized in 1872 and with the subordinate lodge suffered total loss of its records and paraphernalia in the fire.

In 1895 the lodge bought the old Oxford Hotel on the south side of Main Street, in the second block east from the bridge, and began at once to remodel it for a permanent home. Nearly all the partitions on the second floor were removed and the most approved plans for lodge purposes were followed. The lodge room proper is located in the rear of the building and is pleasant and spacious (being 34 by 52 feet), ample room for all floor work in the degrees. From this room double doors open into the ante and paraphernalia rooms in front, both large and spacious enough for all purposes. One is devoted to the uses of the subordinate lodge and the other to the encampment. At the east of these rooms is the reception room. When the rooms were completed they were perfect in all their appointments. The ground floor comprises two store-buildings which are rented by the lodge. The lodge paid \$3,800 for the property, and expended about \$800 in improvements.

At the completion of the improvements a grand celebration and house-warming was held. A fine musical and literary program, speeches, and a bounteous supper was given, to which the general public were invited, and an immense crowd participated in the festivities, probably the largest at a banquet in Independence. Nearly five hundred ate supper at the hall and the net receipts amounted to about \$110.

The Manchester K. of P. Band furnished a fine program of music.

There are at present 128 members of this lodge in the city.

#### INDEPENDENCE ENCAMPMENT, NO. 56, OF I. O. O. F.

This order was organized here January 14, 1873, with twelve members, viz.: L. W. Hart, Ira Alexander, M. B. Tims, A. F. Williams, J. W. Johnson, O. M. Pond, W. G. Beels, C. B. Kandy, A. J. Bowley, S. R. Shipley, W. Francis and William Wood. The officers were: O. M. Pond, C. P.; L. W. Hart, H. P.; A. J. Bowley, S. W.; M. B. Tims, J. W.; Ira Alexander, scribe; A. F. Williams, treasurer. The lodge was instituted by S. S. Winnall, chief patriarch of the state.

#### MYSTIC WORKERS OF THE WORLD

The Mystic Workers of the World, Independence Lodge, No. 944, was organized in January, 1910, with twelve charter members. The present officers are the following:

Prefect, Lurena Thompson; monitor, Eva Day; secretary, Leslie C. McGill; banker, G. M. Saunders; marshal, Hda Russell; warder, R. R. Crew; sentinel, Marion Bates; and three supervisors, William Fluck, Ella Fluck and Eva Day.

The membership at present is seventy-nine.

## THE BOAT CLUB

That Independence was becoming a launch center there was no denying. One had but to gaze upon the once placid waters of the beautiful Wapsie to see its waters churned to a froth or listen—the once peaceful quiet was broken by the almost continuous put-put-put of a gasoline launch. Any, time of day or night the river was studded with the fastly moving "water-bugs." In 1909 this sport had reached its zenith of popularity; some thirty-two launches were owned in Independence. The old-fashioned rowboat was either relegated to the "beach" or was rejuvenated into a modern sea-faring cruiser by the simple addition of a gasoline engine. To be sure, the rowboat and canoe had lost none of their one-time attractiveness to fishermen and romantic youths, but for all around family purposes and picnickers the process of pushing water past one with a pair of awkward wooden arms was entirely too slow and too much like exertion. Hence the innovation was gladly accepted and enthusiasm for the pleasures of boating was never so intense.

Now this enthusiasm must have a determinate objective point, not just a pleasure trip to some secluded spot along the river bank, as before, but some place where all could meet on an equal footing of eligibility (so often the popular places were usurped by preceding picnickers), so forthwith a meeting was held at the M. W. A. Hall, Friday evening, March 5, 1909, and a Boat Club was organized, and elected the following officers: R. B. Raines, president; Herman Frank, vice president; Fred Wackerbarth, secretary; and C. M. Roberts, treasurer. A board of directors composed of five members was named as follows: W. G. Brown, William Wengert, W. C. Littlejohn, Joe Limbert and A. H. Wallace. The membership fee was \$1 per year, and the organization started with a membership of eighty-five. The club insignia is the three-blade propeller; the club flag is white and maroon.

The object of the organization, as stated in the constitution, is to promote good fellowship, to foster and increase interest in aquatic sports such as boating and fishing, and to a certain extent protect and police the river in regard to all objectionable features. The Government regulations regarding river craft, as to signals, whistles and lights, etc., were adopted. A committee, consisting of William Wengert, W. G. Brown and E. O. Parker, to solicit subscriptions of stock for the purpose of erecting a large clubhouse at some suitable point on the river. The Martin Weepie farm was selected as a favorable site.

The ground was leased for a period of years, and immediately the club began the erection of a large and commodious clubhouse, 42 by 25 feet, equipped with a stage and dressing rooms, a dancing floor and pavilion. The dancing floor is of polished fir.

The grounds were cleared and fixed as an amusement ground, a tennis court and croquet grounds were laid out, seat benches and tables provided for picnickers, and on Friday, June 4, 1909, the club had its formal opening at the clubhouse grounds. The weather was ideal and the new register showed an enrollment of 390 names and many not registering. By the middle of August 2,700 people had autographed in the register.

There were all kinds of amusements afforded, baseball, tennis, croquet, and quoits, various athletic contests, amusing stunts, a fine musical program, and

to conclude the day's festivities a dance and fireworks. Numerous similar occasions were enjoyed that summer.

Boat races have been one of the special interests from time to time, the race starting at the Boat Club, reaching to the water-works building, and return. Many boats enter and great excitement prevails. In the spring of 1900 the ladies of the town gave a big supper at the Gedney Hotel for the purpose of raising money to buy lamps. The required sum was realized and the lamps installed. A refreshment stand operated by some one licensed, usually the caretaker, furnishes refreshments to those wishing to buy. Fine spring water is also a great attraction to this place.

In 1913 a large addition was built on the south to accommodate the fastly increasing membership. New amusement paraphernalia was added, boxball, shuffleboard, swings and toboggan slides for the children. Every two weeks the club gives a dance, and often some especially fine orchestra is employed to furnish the music. Sacred concerts on Sunday afternoons have been special features of this club's activities.

The register shows hundreds of names enrolled every season and from all over the United States, many visitors riding through in automobiles making this a stopping place.

Scarcely a day from early summer until fall but one to several picnic parties visit this pleasure resort.

In 1912 the organization changed the name to the Country Club, and its dues were raised to \$3 per year. Between three hundred and four hundred membership tickets are sold, which means a much larger membership, as families are included in the tickets.

When flocks of people began to visit this retreat the necessity of some public convenience to carry those not fortunate enough to own a launch was felt, and straightway Mr. Andrew Donovan bought a boat twenty-five feet long which could accommodate twenty-five people. This boat was christened the Capitola and still plies the river when traffic is not heavy.

But increasing demand for staterooms and steerage passage induced him to buy a still larger craft—a big fifty-passenger—and many times the pilot is destined to ride the steering wheel, to give the crowds room.

Captain Donovan has done more than any other person to make the Country Club a success, and until the automobile craze was the only means of transportation for those not owning launches.

Captain Donovan is a man of exceptionally fine traits, cautious, accommodating to a degree and faithful to his duty.

But credit where credit is due—and back of the whole enterprise was the moving spirit of Mr. Joe Limbert.

#### GUN CLUBS

Buchanan County sports have from the earliest day evinced a great attraction for firearms. In the early days the pioneers scarcely left their homes without their trusty weapons by their sides, and always was the old muzzle-loading gun within easy access; either standing in a corner of the kitchen or just above the door; for game was plentiful and skulking Indians not a few, and one



FIRST GAS LAUNCH ON RIVER, INDEPENDENCE



COUNTRY CLUB, INDEPENDENCE





never knew what occasion might arise when stalking through the unbeaten paths of the wilderness, the dim and shadowy forests, or the long, unbroken prairie grasses. Indians and the beasts and fowls of the primeval country were the subtle and fleeting objects of their true and steady aim.

Then later when these had disappeared, the lawless and unscrupulous desperado, who seeks the wild and thinly settled communities to exploit his games, the squatters, confidence men and those with a past to conceal, were the target at which this pioneer aimed.

After this period came the small game proposition which kept the hunter of the '60s and '70s busy; his arm steady and his aim accurate; and this to his future undoing, as far as real live sport was concerned. Then came long closed periods and only occasional shots and "the call of the wild" to distant "game reserves."

But all these years numerous gun clubs have been organized to keep up the practice, not enthusiasm, for that seemed never lacking, which have periodically waxed and waned. It used to be the custom for the various gun clubs in the county to meet in contest, and shooting formed a conspicuous part of Fourth of July and other programs. One club was organized in Independence in 1896, thrived for a few years and then subsided. Another, named the Wapsie Gun Club, was organized September 20, 1910. The organization leased a plot of ground of Martin Weepie, on the banks of the Wapsie about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles above Independence. On this they erected a clubhouse, installed a trap and hold shoots, at which all the amateurs and professionals contest for honors. Dr. J. H. McGready was elected the first president. He was succeeded by Fred Lehmkuhl, who still retains the office. L. C. Simmons is secretary and E. E. Everett, treasurer. The membership of the club is forty-five.

#### THE GOLF CLUB

Independence can boast of being one of the smallest, and at one time the smallest city in the state that supported a golf club. There were many enthusiasts of the game who could only vent their enthusiasm while visiting some city. The interest in the game grew to such an extent that on Friday, October 15, 1909, a meeting was called for the purpose of organizing a golf club. Much enthusiasm was manifested at this meeting. At this time there were thirty-five or forty devotees of the game, numbered among the professional and business men of the city, and it was fast usurping the place in popularity that had formerly been held by tennis and baseball. At this meeting Don D. Donnan was elected president; Doctor Donahue, vice president; and Joseph Limbert, secretary and treasurer. Don Donnan, Joe Limbert and R. J. O'Brien were named as a committee to draw up the constitution and by-laws.

In 1908 a course had been laid out in the vicinity of the boat club grounds by Mr. Donnan and other golf admirers.

The next year the ground was leased from Mr. Martin Weepie and the course somewhat improved, and every year thereafter.

In 1914 the Wackerbarth cottage, situated on the golf grounds, was bought by the golf club and fitted up as a clubhouse, with all the convenient and necessary things that are indispensable to a clubhouse. Lockers were installed and

a kitchen was completely furnished with necessary utensils. A large porch was built on the west side, which gives one a fine view of the golf grounds.

Thursday of each week was designated as ladies' day and a chairman was appointed whose duty it was to arrange some sort of a luncheon for the players. Friday is gentlemen's day. A program for the ladies and gentlemen is arranged at the beginning of the season, which have proved very attractive and entertaining. These programs consist of every conceivable feature known to golfdom.

The present membership is about seventy-five men and fully forty-five women, and never a day in the week, if the weather is not utterly impossible, but finds many devotees of the game pursuing the nimble and elusive ball in the gullies, swamps and cornfields. Several cups each year have been offered as prizes for special features of the game, and have proved to be a most attractive drawing card.

For three years a three-days' tournament was conducted, and visiting golfers from all the neighboring cities and throughout the state were in attendance. The golf club is one of the most attractive features to visitors that Independence possesses.

The dues of the club are \$10 a year for gentlemen, and \$5 for women who join.

Families of members have the privilege of the grounds.

The credit and prosperity of the organization is largely due to Mr. Don Donnan.

#### THE HAMILTON CLUB

A history of Buchanan County that failed to mention the Hamilton Club would be a fraud on the face of it.

The English tongue is totally inadequate to fittingly describe this mysterious, mystical, mythical and mythological organization, whose beginning is obscure and whose end is not yet. The Hamilton Club is like the mule, without pride of ancestry or hope of posterity. No man stands sponsor for its existence, and no one has yet been found who claims the honor of having started it or of ever having belonged. In one respect it is like the Omnipotent—no man has ever seen it and lived—politically!

Political savants, astrologers and soothsayers of the vintage of 1902 first discovered its presence on the horizon in the early dawn of the campaign of that year. Like a meteor it flashed across the sky and then apparently disappeared into oblivion, so sudden was its rise, so tragic was its fall.

Failing in its avowed purpose of purging politics of the persistent, insistent, pestiferous, odious and offensive partisan; or of removing the firmly attached, ancient, honorable, antique and ossified incumbent from his lucrative office—all in the name of civic righteousness and in the interest of the young man in politics—it became a buccaneer on the high seas of political activity and a terror to the aspirant for office who inadvertently stubbed his toe or became the object of its solicitous attention. Secretly, silently, unobtrusive, intangible and ghost-like, it still appears on occasion to worry and annoy or to badger and amuse, according to whim or fancy.

This peerless organization has never been known to desert a member in the hour of his need—or its! It is claimed that its sinister influence is ubiquitous, omnipresent and insidious and that in its ramifications it reaches out into every voting precinct of Buchanan County. It is alleged that with its subtle secret power it can blast with a breath the power of the demagogue and cause his political potency to evaporate like a snowball on the ramparts of hades!

That the Hamilton Club is a power to be reckoned with in the political life of the county, there is no question. Observers are unanimous in asserting that it can defeat any candidate for office to whom it may turn its attention by simply indorsing him! There are those who know this to be a fact. Enough said.

“To gild refined gold, to paint the lily,  
To throw a perfume on the violet,  
To smooth the ice, or add another hue  
Unto the rainbow or with taper-light,  
To seek the beauteous eye of heaven to garnish,  
Is wasteful and ridiculous excess.”

After life's fitful fever it sleeps well: Treason has done his worst: nor steel, nor poison, malice domestic, foreign levy, nothing, can touch it further!

#### CALEDONIAN CLUB

A Caledonian Club was organized in Independence in the '70s, by the lovers and admirers of Robert Burns, the Scotch poet.

The membership for the most part consisted of his own countrymen. For many years this club was in existence and the Scotland bard's birthday was the occasion of grand festivities, with a materialistic and a enologic feast of both the poet and philosopher. Their programs were for the most part musical and literary, and occasionally interspersed with a dramatic production, the numbers being as far as possible of Scotch origin.

Mr. W. P. McGuire was one of the leading spirits of the organization and one of the star performers of the dramatic productions.

#### BUCHANAN COUNTY ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION

A Buchanan County Illinois Association was organized September 8, 1909, at the Buchanan County Fair. Its membership is composed of all persons who ever were residents of Illinois. W. H. Warburton was elected president; T. J. Disbrow, vice president; Mrs. G. B. Westfall, secretary and treasurer. Seventy-six members enrolled at the first meeting.

A fine program was enjoyed. Meetings have been held every year since, and great interest attaches to this event, and a surprising number of "Illini-Iowans" are in attendance at these "love-feasts."

To give a complete history of the fraternal and social life of Independence and all other towns as well, would form a conspicuous chapter, but as that chapter would easily necessitate a separate volume, we can only mention the names of many of them. As their chief desire and aim in life was primarily social

enjoyment, recreation and personal emolument, we can not devote the space that societies of some broader scope commanded among the number of Young Ladies' Soiree and Young Ladies' Crown Society, the G. P. Cooking Club girls, the "Commundrums," the "Salmagundi," the "McHatriki Basicuroki," the "M. M. Club," the "Bachelor Maids," the "D. T. C's," the "Boomer Girls," the "Mother Goose Club," "Fin-de-Cycle," the "Round Dozen," "Reading Circles," the "Eromathean," dramatic clubs, etc., and these are synonymous with those of every other town in the county.

The fraternal spirit has always been very strong in the City of Independence. The lodges have, without exception, been active and have contributed materially to the improvement of the town. There are the Modern Woodmen of America, with a membership of about seventy, the Woodmen of the World, with a substantial membership, which are lodges that have cooperated. The Mystic Toilers, the Mystic Workers, the Yeomen, the United Commercial Travelers, and the Owls, are the other lodges in town besides those mentioned above. The United Commercial Travelers, which is Wapsie Council, No. 413, have a membership of about sixty. They have been active in the social life of the town, having given dances and banquets at various times during their existence. They have been organized about five years. A nest of Owls was organized in Independence on March 15, 1909, and is now a flourishing organization, with a membership near the one hundred mark.

#### WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE INTERESTS

One noticeable fact which shows that women's approval and cooperation was solicited and appreciated in politics in the early '60s was that they were not only invited but urged to attend all the political speeches and celebrations. All during the war the political parties were at very strained relations and feelings were intense and the women were quite as pronounced in their views as the men, and their influence was sought by both parties. At all the rallies they took quite a conspicuous part.

In 1869 woman's suffrage lectures were being given in Independence—one at the Baptist Church was given by J. L. Loomis, former editor of the Bulletin. Men and women of all shades of political and religious belief were requested to be present. Mr. Loomis also lectured at several other places in the county. At a meeting of the Hazleton Lyceum the woman's suffrage question took the form of a debate and the verdict of the judges was that the opponents were completely vanquished.

Probably the first efforts to educate the citizens of Buchanan County into the suffrage question, at least in a literary way, was by a series of letters against woman's suffrage written over the signature "Ann Idea" which appeared in the Bulletin in 1866, with editorial replies. The letters evinced a sparkling vivacity, wit, and penetration which attracted much attention and it was not until several years after did the public learn that they were written by Nannie Densmore, a young girl of eighteen years, who was a resident of Independence at that time and that these were not an expression of her real views, for she was a firm believer in the principles of political equality and this means was taken by herself and J. L. Loomis, the editor, to excite greater attention and interest in the subject and

they fully accomplished their purpose. During her residence here Miss Densmore was best known for her musical attainments. Besides giving private instruction on the piano, she taught a number of vocal classes and gave two or three concerts which gave evidences of her marked ability. She removed to Winnetka, Illinois, where in June, 1870, she died and thus early in life was cut off what might have proven to be a brilliant career.

#### IOWA WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE CONVENTION

On November 25, 1896, the Iowa Woman's Suffrage Association convened in Independence for a two days' session. Over forty delegates were present. The town was profusely decorated with yellow, the society's color. The prominent suffrage women from all over the state were present, and some outside workers. The meeting was one of great enthusiasm and determination. At this meeting various plans for future educational and campaign work were adopted, among them that a county organization should be formed in all counties containing three clubs or more—hence the organization of the Buchanan County Association. Fine music, addresses, reports, discussions and new projects constituted the program.

At the election of officers Mrs. N. T. Bemis, of Independence, was elected vice president; Mrs. C. L. Hussey, Independence, a member of the executive committee, and Mrs. Bemis and Mrs. John Barnett, of Independence, were elected as delegates to the national convention which convened at Des Moines in 1897. The report of the superintendent of enrollment showed the names of 8,000 women who had signed the book as favorable to the cause. Polk County headed the list with Buchanan County second in numbers, a sure proof that this is a progressive community.

The Buchanan County Woman's Suffrage Association met at Independence for a two days' session, April 23 and 24, 1897, Miss Mary G. Hay as state organizer conducted the session. The meetings were held at the Baptist Church and many delegates and prominent speakers were present, among them Rev. Anna Shaw, now president of the National Woman's Suffrage Organization. She gave a fine address. Delegates were here from all over the state and excellent papers were read; great enthusiasm was manifested.

Again on September 22, 1897, the first meeting of the Buchanan County Equal Suffrage Association was held at Jesup. Miss Harriet S. Jenks, of Jesup, was elected president; Mrs. Narcissa Bemis, Independence, vice president; Miss Olive Mallow, Littleton, corresponding and recording secretary; George W. Bemis, Independence, treasurer; Harriet Lake, Independence, and Mrs. Nellie Spangler, Winthrop, auditors. These conventions were held annually for several years, then, owing not so much to lack of interest as to continual thwarting of plans, the leaders of the organization became discouraged and the county association was abandoned, although individual societies still maintained an active interest in the cause for which it was organized, and should occasion arise, the Buchanan County Equal Suffrage Association would be resurrected and newly born and pledged to the cause.

On September 23, 1897, Rev. Anna Shaw was in Independence and lectured on "The New Man," at the Presbyterian Church.

## THE POLITICAL EQUALITY CLUB

The Political Equality Club was organized in December, 1889, by Mrs. Carrie Lane Chapman, Washington, D. C., national president of the political equality movement, in the parlors of the Presbyterian Church, with Mrs. G. W. Bemis, president; Mrs. H. A. Fisher, vice president; Mrs. M. R. Ross, secretary, and Mrs. C. L. Hussey, treasurer.

The object of the organization, as set forth in the constitution, to be the advancement of woman socially, industrially and politically; and the culture of its members in matters pertaining to the responsibility and duties of citizenship.

The first regular meeting was held in January, 1890, in the G. A. R. Hall. Mrs. Ross having sent in her resignation, Mrs. Alice R. Davies was elected to fill the vacancy. The membership of twenty-eight included both men and women.

The Political Equality Club has worked along the lines first suggested, quietly, but faithfully, and trusts that it has helped, in a small way, to promote the growth of the present almost universal recognition of the justice of political equality. In November, 1896, the Independence club entertained the twenty-fifth annual convention of the Iowa Woman's Suffrage Association for a two days' session. Over forty delegates were present and a most enthusiastic meeting was held.

While there have been many loyal friends enrolled as members, it must never be forgotten that Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Bemis were the club's greatest inspiration and most zealous workers for the cause.

At the present time Dr. Florence Barnes is president, Mrs. A. J. Dunlap, vice president, and Miss Jennie M. Young, secretary and treasurer.

The meetings are held the third Friday in the month at the homes of the members, and the study is civil government. When the State of Iowa finally recognizes the just and inalienable rights of her women, with the ballot, this band of earnest, loyal and devoted women of the Political Equality Club of Independence, shall be accredited with what is their rightful due, as an ardent and untiring worker for the cause.

## P. E. O. SOCIETY

A. P. E. O. Society was organized in Independence October 6, 1897, by Mrs. Judge Couch, of Waterloo, state organizer. This is a secret society of women and originated at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Three of the Independence women were already members of chapters in other places. Miss Emma L. Funk and Mrs. Lulu Schabaeker were members of the Hampton Chapter and Mrs. J. H. Rogers of the chapter at West Liberty.

The Independence Chapter was named Chapter B. D. The officers elected were: President, Mrs. Buechele; vice president, Carrie Williams; recording secretary, Miss Isabelle Carrier; corresponding secretary, Miss May Luther; chaplain, Miss Sadie Herriek; treasurer, Miss Lillie Soener; guard, Mrs. Florence McConnell.

There were eight charter members, as follows: Mrs. J. L. Buechle, Mrs. A. H. Wallace, Mrs. Florence McConnell, Miss Isabelle Carrier, Miss Carrie Williams, Miss Emma L. Funk, Miss Lillie Soener and Miss Mary Luther.

Meetings were held fortnightly, now monthly, and some fine and unique programs and plays have been produced. Their annual guest night has always been a "red-letter" occasion and was observed with especially entertaining programs and usually a banquet. The P. E. O. has always identified itself with all worthy public enterprises and has the credit for being the promoter of the Oakwood Cemetery Association. They, with the Eastern Star and Rebekah societies, were associated together to improve Oakwood Cemetery. B. D. Chapter has assisted in the Scholarship Loan Fund, the Munson Federation and other altruistic work.

It is actively interested in the state work, sending delegates to the state conventions, and every year the state inspector finds B. D. Chapter in a flourishing condition.

The chapter has now forty active members.

#### PENELOPE VAN PRINCES CHAPTER, D. A. R.

Pursuant to a call issued by Miss Harriet Lake, regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, appointed by the national society, the following named members of the national society met at her home on Wednesday afternoon, June 3, 1903, for the purpose of organizing a local chapter: Mesdames Thomas Blamer, H. C. Chappell, D. S. Jones, N. M. Evers, G. T. Blamer, R. E. Leach, W. C. Littlejohn, A. J. Klocker, Misses Kathryn Clarke, Harriet Lake, Ada Stout. Twelve members are required to form a chapter, and these above named members had satisfactorily proved their eligibility to the national society; the requirements are that a member shall be a lineal descendant of a Revolutionary soldier. At this meeting the following named officers were elected: Miss Lake, regent; Miss Ada Stout, vice regent; Mrs. Kate Leach, secretary; Mrs. Ann Littlejohn, registrar; and Miss Kathryn Clarke, treasurer.

At the next meeting, on July 16, 1903, by-laws were presented and adopted, by which the offices of corresponding secretary, historian, and two directors were created. To these offices the following named women were elected: Mrs. Edna Blamer, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Kathryn Chappell, historian; Mrs. Delphia Ransier and Miss Lillian Barber, as directors. Seven more women having proved their eligibility, were promptly admitted to membership at this meeting. It was voted that the chapter be named the "Independence Chapter," but this name, not proving acceptable to the national society (there being another chapter of that name), several names were selected, with "Penelope Van Princes" as first choice. With this name the chapter was christened.

Penelope Van Princes was the maternal ancestor of two of the charter members, Mrs. Ella Stout Campbell and Mrs. Ada Stout Backus; she was a woman of wonderful heroism and resourcefulness, with a history full of exciting and remarkable experiences.

The regular meetings of the chapter are held the second Tuesday of the months from October to June, inclusive. Officers are elected for a term of two years. The resident membership of the chapter is limited to twenty-four active members (any number of non-resident members is permissible).

The work of the chapter is along patriotic lines, following an outlined course of study and participating in the local, state and national patriotic and historical

work. The mission of the local chapter, like that of the national society, is to foster and perpetuate patriotism; to instill the honor and respect due the founders of our country, and their glorious achievements; and to manifest a vital interest in the future citizenship of our country, for which latter purpose, particularly, the "Children of the Republic" and "Children of the American Revolution" were created. The first-named society is for all children, particularly of foreign-born parents, and the latter for the children of Daughters of the American Revolution.

As to the specific work of Penelope Van Princes Chapter, it has donated liberally to Continental Memorial Hall, the magnificent building at Washington, D. C., erected by the Daughters to honor their Revolutionary ancestors and the founders of our nation, aside from its presenting a fine mahogany desk to the Iowa room. It has also lent its aid and support to the schools maintained by the society for the indigent white children of the South, to restore and preserve historical homes and places, erect monuments and mark the early trails, some legislative work, and has assisted in local patriotic work in connection with the G. A. R. and W. R. C. societies in placing flags in all the public and parochial schools of the city and in creating a soldiers' monument fund, assisted in the Munson Federation and the cemetery association work, and individually presented a very elegant picture of Aurora Lighting Up the Dawn, by Guido Re, to the high school, with appropriate exercises of impressive character. The chapter also gives money prizes to the divisions of the seventh and eighth grades of the public schools making the best average in history for the year, the money to be invested by the class in purchasing something for the school equipment. Two years ago the chapter inaugurated the plan of a short course in domestic science as a means for raising funds for local enterprises, contemplated by the chapter. Teachers are procured from the state school at Ames, and the course includes not only cooking and serving meals, but home furnishing and decorating, and sanitation and care of the sick. The first term of the course was held in the high school domestic science room in 1913, at Munson Hall, and 1914 in the science room, in November. This has proved a very beneficial and profitable enterprise. The chapter also presented the public library with a flag and for many years has contributed the American Monthly Magazine (the national society's organ) to the reading room. The red letter days observed by the chapter are Washington's wedding anniversary on January 16th and his birthday on the 22d is celebrated as annual guest night with banquets and programs, and the 22d is also honored with a patriotic service at one of the churches of the city, and on flag day, June 14th, occurs the annual chapter picnic. A treasure, both of sentimental and historical value, in possession of Penelope Van Princes Chapter, is a gavel made out of the wood of the Frigate August, which was sunk over one hundred years, and then raised. The gavel is a gift of Miss Lake, the first regent.

Another treasure of historical value in possession of Penelope Van Princes is a silk flag made by Rachael Albright, granddaughter of Betsy Ross, the original designer and maker of our national flag. Rachael learned this art at her grandmother's knee.

Penelope Van Princes Chapter has achieved more than ordinary distinction, having received both state and national honors. For three consecutive terms,



Miss Harriet Lake was elected to the state body, first in April, 1908; reelected in 1909, and again in 1910. In the spring of 1911 she was elected as vice president general at the national conference at Washington, D. C. In 1913 the conference reelected her to the office.

Another honor not sought but gracefully accepted was the election, in October, 1911, at the state conference, of Mrs. George Spangler as state historian, to which office she was reelected in 1912.

#### ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Declaration Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, was instituted on the evening of March 13, 1900, by Mrs. Mary Rathbun, deputy grand matron, of Clinton, Iowa. The name Declaration has a special significance, which is worthy of mention. The name was suggested by Mrs. Rathbun as being very appropriate, considering that it was to be organized on the thirteenth of the month, and the thirteenth chapter in the state, in the City of Independence, and that thirteen original states signed the Declaration of Independence, hence, the name suggested itself to Mrs. Rathbun, and the new chapter gladly selected it for a cognomen.

That the organization was of an excellent and substantial character is attested from the number and character of its twenty-one chapter members, elected to the following offices: W. M., Mrs. Laura Fiester; W. P., Jacob Steinmetz; A. M., Mrs. Ella Truax; secretary, C. M. Roberts; treasurer, Mrs. Myrtle Roberts; cond., Mrs. Mary Wilson; a. cond., Carrie Steinmetz; Adali, Mary Davis; Ruth, Minnie Burlingham; Esther, Mrs. Emma Heege; Martha, Mrs. Lulu Tidball; Electa, Mrs. Alice Lyon; chaplain, Mrs. May Davis; marshal, Mrs. Sarah Burris; sentinel, Mr. Lou Lyons; warder, Mrs. E. J. Smith; organist, Iona Truax. The other members were E. J. Smith, Martha Steinmetz, Mrs. Clara McDonald and Mr. John Truax.

The order has always flourished, at one time having about one hundred and thirty-five members and now have one hundred and twenty-five enrolled.

In 1908 twenty-one of the members, residents of Rowley, withdrew and instituted a chapter of their own. One memorable occasion was in 1903, when the State School of Instruction was held in Independence, with Declaration Chapter as the hostess. Declaration Chapter has also been honored with state offices, having had a member, Mrs. Lulu Tidball, appointed Grand Esther in 1904, and Mrs. Mary Oglesbee as grand deputy in 1907. The anniversary of the chapter is always duly observed with guests, and a banquet followed by some high-class program.

The Eastern Star has been identified with all the public philanthropies and enterprises, and been a most able auxiliary to the Masons' lodge and lent most substantial aid toward furnishing the kitchen and table necessities. Suppers and banquets have been an important feature of the lodge since its organization, and that, together with the excellent ritualistic work, has kept up the interest of the order.

One of the possessions of which Declaration Chapter is proud is a beautiful silver loving cup which they were awarded at the Independence flower show of 1903.

Declaration Chapter has always manifested a keen interest in the state work of the order and contributed liberally to its interests.

#### REBEKAHS

A Rebekah Lodge was organized in Independence on March 12, 1897, at the Odd Fellows' Hall, with forty-five charter members. A similar organization was in being a great many years previous, but owing to internal troubles the order soon died.

A former law read that none were eligible to attend except wives and daughters of Odd Fellows, but with the opening of doors to all women and men also, the growth of the order began.

The local organization is known as Lillium Lodge No. 25, and was instituted by the Crescent Lodge from Manchester, with visiting brothers and sisters from Earlville and Masonville. The officers were Mrs. J. B. James, Mesdames W. T. Evans, F. S. Doty and J. P. Pease. About thirty-five visitors were present.

The conferring of ranks and election of officers occupied the entire evening. After the business meeting a banquet was served. The officers of the lodge were voted for six months, as follows: N. G., James Neath; V. G., Mrs. E. H. Sweet; secretary, Miss Flora Evers; treasurer, Miss Kate Leytse; R. S., Mrs. G. W. Horner; L. S., Mrs. Jed Snow; R. S. V. G., Mrs. J. W. Romig; L. S. V. G., Mrs. C. E. Bissell; warden, Mrs. Bert Allen; conductor, Miss Mattie Hageman; chaplain, Mrs. Nettie Peck; I. G., Miss Sauer, and O. G., E. E. Hageman.

Lillium Lodge has always been an active, progressive order and prosperous to a marked degree. They have manifested a keen interest in all public enterprises, and aside from their being a most helpful auxiliary to the Odd Fellows Lodge, they assisted them to furnish the hall and the kitchen equipment and table furnishings.

The Rebekahs, with the P. E. O.'s and O. E. S., organized the Oak Wood Cemetery Association and did an excellent public service in cleaning and maintaining the grounds.

At present they have ninety-six active members. Meetings are held on the first and third Friday evenings of each month.

#### PYTHIAN SISTERS

Independence Temple, No. 183, was instituted on May 25, 1904, by Sister Carrie G. Hunter, P. G. C. of Newton, Iowa. The charter membership included forty-five sisters and forty-three brothers, mostly of young married people of the town. The temple was instituted as a Rathbone Sisters' organization, for at that time, the Knights of Pythias had not formally acknowledged the relationship between their order and the Sisters' organization, and not until November, 1904, was it legally adopted into the Knights of Pythias order.

The first officers elected to the chairs were: Mrs. Emma Gillette, P. C.; Mrs. Flora Backus, M. E. C.; Mrs. Nellie E. Corliss, E. S.; Mrs. Maude Donnan, E. J.; Miss Caroline Littell, manager; Miss Minnie Wackerbarth, M. of F.; Miss Lillie Soener, M. of R. & C.; Miss Iona Truax, protector; and Mrs. Birdie Bemis,

guard: Mrs. Eva Simmons, Mrs. Emma Sutkamp, and Mrs. Ed Wilson, trustees.

Meetings are held every second and fourth Thursday in the month. This organization has always been an exceedingly active one both socially and philanthropically. Every variety of entertainment has been indulged in from the drama to thimble bees, and many creditable performances have been given, and although they have expended much on Pythian Sisters' charities and their benevolences have not been confined to members of the order, but extended to individuals and organized charities both of this city and of the state and they have also generously contributed to many public enterprises. After the organization of the Sister Temple, the Knights refitted and newly and beautifully furnished their hall, making it one of the finest in the city, and the Pythian Sisters contributed all the kitchen utensils and table furnishings, silver and dishes complete and bought a new piano. While the hall was in the process of construction, meetings were held in the courthouse. The Independence Temple has been signally honored, considering the short time of its existence, by having first a grand protector, Mrs. Emma Gillette serving in that capacity in 1907, a grand M. of R. & C., Mrs. Nellie E. Corliss serving two years, 1909 and 1910, and then being elected as grand chief in 1911; and a district deputy grand chief in the person of Mrs. H. C. Netcott in 1913. This temple has also furnished officers in the chairs at the grand lodge in 1910 and twice at district conventions, and in 1908 entertained the district convention. At present there are 125 active members, 65 women and 60 men.

In May, 1914, the temple celebrated its tenth anniversary with appropriate ceremonies; a banquet followed by a literary and musical entertainment, and had as guests some of the grand officers.

#### ROYAL NEIGHBORS

The woman's organization of the Modern Woodmen of America, known as the Royal Neighbors, was organized as Pinicon Camp No. 1736, in Independence, on April 13, 1902.

Mrs. Margaret Carmody applied to the Supreme Camp officers to secure the organization of a camp at Independence and they sent Mrs. Ida Lawrence of Hazleton, who organized the camp with nineteen charter members.

At present there are 115 members, 97 beneficial and 18 social members. The social members are those, who, on account of physical disability, can not be permitted to hold insurance policies, but are entitled to all other privileges of the order. In 1914 the beneficial members carried \$100,000 insurance.

Since organization, the camp has lost but two members by death, Mrs. Emma Caldwell and Mrs. Jannette Anderson.

At the organization of Pinicon Camp, Miss Lottie Van Vorse was elected oracle and Miss Lettie Troy, recorder. The present officers, Mrs. Margaret Carmody, oracle; and Mrs. Rachel Adams, recorder, have served nine years. Besides the great beneficial privileges of this order the social advantages are many.

#### LADIES' LITERARY SOCIETY

More than usual interest attaches to this organization because of the fact that to it belongs the distinction of being the oldest literary society in the state.

having been organized thirty-seven years ago. The idea originated with Mrs. Ephraim Leach, who invited a number of Independence ladies to meet at the home of Mrs. S. S. Clark, December 13, 1877, to discuss the advisability and desirability of forming an organization which, it was hoped, would prove a mental stimulus and intellectual inspiration to its members. Nearly thirty ladies responded to the invitation and a temporary organization was effected with Mrs. N. O. Lawson in the chair and Miss Irene M. Wells acting as secretary. A committee consisting of Mrs. R. E. Leach, Mrs. J. F. Henshaw and Miss S. E. Homans, was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws. One week later, December 20th, at the home of Mrs. W. G. Donnan, the organization was perfected and thus was launched upon the unknown sea of club life a modest bark floating from its masthead L. L. C., and manned by such women as Mrs. L. C. Bryant, the first president; Mrs. S. P. Campbell, vice president; Miss S. E. Homans, secretary and treasurer, and Mrs. H. A. Woodruff, assistant secretary. Four pilots were considered necessary for this first journey: Mrs. N. O. Lawton, chairman of the committee on art and literature; Mrs. M. B. Jackson, chairman of committee on science and education; Virginia Clarke (Boggs), chairman of committee on history; Mrs. J. F. Henshaw, chairman of committee on miscellaneous subjects. The passengers on board were: Mesdames S. S. Clark, W. G. Donnan, E. Leach, J. W. Myers, D. L. Smith, Warren Barnhart, H. W. Holman, A. B. Clarke, O. P. Hammond, E. B. Older, J. F. Coy, Dr. A. Reynolds, F. D. Jackson, S. Newman, P. G. Freeman; Misses Fannie Clarke, I. M. Wells, E. R. Phillips, Josie Smith (Jones), Addie Bartle (Harvey), Josie Eusminger (Mowry).

The same bark still sails upon the sea of club life, but now calmly and proudly, with confidence in itself and faith in its destiny.

Many discouragements were met with in the early days. Sometimes the attendance averaged only four or five, and it seemed almost useless to continue the meetings, but Mrs. Leach counseled persistence, and Miss Homans patience, and thus the faith and determination of four or five women made possible such meetings as the members enjoy today.

For a long time after its organization the meetings of the L. L. C. were held in the Masonic Hall, a privilege greatly appreciated by the ladies, although a sentinel was always detailed to guard the sacred trophies of his order.

Many of the features inaugurated in the early days of the society are still preserved, among them the observance of anniversary day, which continues to be the red-letter day in the club calendar.

In 1896 they joined the state federation and the general federation in 1908.

This club has always manifested a strong altruistic tendency, and to them belongs the honor of having originated, in 1908, the "Scholarship and Loan Fund" idea, a means whereby young women can borrow money without paying interest and for conveniently long terms, to assist them to acquire an education, which later was approved by the federated clubs of the Third district, who took up the work and proceeded to push the proposition to a most successful footing. Much of the credit of its success being due to the efforts of Miss Harriet Lake of Independence, who has been the chairman of the loan fund committee for this district since this work was inaugurated. (The state federation adopted this idea four years ago as one of its principal, altruistic endeavors.) The



ORIGINAL WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS



Ladies' Literary Club has always donated liberally to this fund and having a personal representative in the work have made it their special mission to keep in close touch with this grand work and have always been interested and active in all the local enterprises for public improvement and philanthropic purposes. The L. L. C., together with the Chautauqua Literary Club, launched the "city beautiful" idea in creating the "Civic Improvement League," which has proved to be a wonderful incentive to the citizens to beautify and keep clean the yards and streets of our city.

At present there are thirty-six active members and twelve honorary members.

#### WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS

E. C. Little Women's Relief Corps was organized in March, 1888, with nineteen members. Mrs. Harriet Holman was elected president and Mrs. Carrie Parker as secretary. From the very first it was an active organization, as attested by the fact that they began giving public entertainments. The second year of their existence they gave a play which netted them \$90.

In 1891, they presented the E. C. Little Post, G. A. R., the beautiful flag which they still carry. They have entertained two district conventions, the last one in the fall of 1913, and with their characteristic hospitality they made of it a grand success.

In 1911, they entertained the veteran reunion and that same year they placed flags in each room of both the public and parochial schools, thereby to awaken a patriotic reverence for the national emblem in the hearts of the young, and at different times to the churches and last year presented a fine flag to the Boy Scouts.

Besides this, the W. R. C.'s have been a most active factor in the proper observance of Decoration Day. Through their efforts flags are displayed in the churches and a special patriotic service is observed at one of the churches every year. They have always kept closely in touch with the state and national work and always been represented at the department conventions.

One of the members, Carrie I. Neteott, has been signally honored by the department, having held several prominent positions. In 1912, she was appointed department patriotic inspector by Lena T. Ring. The year following was elected chairman of the executive board. In 1913, she was appointed department inspector by Mattie Witter, department president, and in 1914 was unanimously elected department president at the department convention at Burlington.

Edith S. Sill has held the office of deputy secretary. Among those who were charter members and are still active in the work are Mrs. M. D. Blakeley, Mary F. O'Brien, and Louisa Parker.

Besides their patriotic work, they do much in a philanthropic way among any of their members who are sick and afflicted and contribute to the orphans' homes and to the poor of the city. They actively cooperate with all public enterprises and are acknowledged to be one of the most hospitable and generous organizations in the city, entertaining their friends on numerous occasions. Last winter they entertained the entire public and parochial school force and school board of the city.

## LADIES' RELIEF SOCIETY

The Ladies' Relief Society was organized in Independence in 1879. Mrs. Narcissa T. Bemis was elected president. The object of the society, as stated in the constitution, was "to extend aid to the suffering, and worthy poor in and around our city," and for thirty-five years it has carried out its mission with both zeal and decision. The society has always worked unostentatiously, succored the afflicted and comforted the sorrowing in our midst, and cooperated with the other local societies in every worthy public enterprise.

It would be utterly impossible to ascertain all the money expended or to definitely recount the many acts of charity of this society, but suffice to say that no one in poverty, or afflicted who calls upon this organization or whose wants are made known, is refused assistance. In 1897 the Relief Society cooperated with the W. C. T. U. in conducting the Munson Industrial School and for the past four years have conducted it alone. Besides the sewing instruction and garments contributed by them for the school, they have held regular sewing bees on Monday afternoons, during the lenten season, making garments for the indigent children of the city and children's and infants' complete outfits for the charitable homes in the state. For many years it was their custom to give a charity ball and supper, but for the past several years the supper has been omitted. This function always nets them a goodly sum. A memorable occasion, and one to be recorded, was when C. W. Williams, the horseman, paid \$100 for a ticket to the ball. At Thanksgiving and Christmas time, baskets of tempting edibles are sent to poor families.

Mrs. Narcissa T. Bemis continued as president for several years. Following her in that office during the next ten years were Mrs. Margaret Ross, Mrs. Robert Plane, Mrs. R. Campbell, Mrs. Lyman Curtis, Mrs. Wm. Toman, Mrs. F. B. Bonniwell, Mrs. Jed Lake and Mrs. Phoeckler.

In 1889, Mrs. Jed Lake was elected president and continued in that office until 1899, when she declined to serve longer and as no argument was sufficient to change her decision on this point, Mrs. Phil Phoeckler was elected to the office and has continued up to the present time.

The officers of this society are a president, vice presidents and visiting committees from each ward, and a treasurer and secretary. In 1886 the society was reorganized and called the Ladies' Aid Society.

It seems to be the custom of this society to retain its officers through a long period of years. Mrs. T. J. Ahearn has served the society twenty-three years as treasurer, and several thousands of dollars has passed through her hands and the society have the satisfaction of knowing that the money has been expended judiciously and prudently.

Mrs. L. C. Simmons has ably served as secretary for many years.

The average expenditure of money in conducting the school and for other charitable purposes is \$250, the expense of the school alone averaging \$100 per year. For the 1914 term, 578 yards of material was purchased besides the necessary finishings.

Meetings are held once a month except at times of special stress.



## LADIES' AID SOCIETY

The number of people in Independence, who, by reason of the prevailing financial stringency and constant failure to get work, or from either cause, were actually suffering for the existence of life was unusually large in 1884. Something like sixty families had applied for public relief and the stories of distress and suffering told by people who had visited some of these families were well calculated to excite the interest and claim the attention of the humane. In view of this suffering, a number of ladies met at the residence of Edward Ross, Esq., on the west side of the river, on Saturday afternoon, January 11, 1884, and proceeded to effect an organization under the name of the Ladies' Relief Association, whose object was to raise money by dime socials, entertainments, and other means, to be expended in relieving the immediate wants of the unfortunates and destitute.

The officers of this association were as follows: President, Mrs. Edward Ross; vice presidents, Mrs. G. W. Bemis, Mrs. D. F. Bisbee and Mrs. Jed Lake; secretary, Mrs. Thomas Blamer; and treasurer, Mrs. William Toman. There was also a visiting committee of three ladies in each ward, who entered upon their duties with untiring zeal.

The first sociable was held at the residence of William Toman on the next Tuesday afternoon and was a pronounced success, the attendance on short notice being about seventy-five and the contribution, \$15.25. Other gatherings of like character and with similar objects were held from time to time. Musical and literary programs formed a feature of their entertainments and sometimes light refreshments were served. A canvass of the city was made for the collection of wearing apparel.

## HOME AID SOCIETY

The Home Aid Society was started in November, 1863, by the ladies of Independence in behalf of home objects. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Warne, president; Mrs. R. Campbell, vice president; Miss Nettie Smith, secretary; Miss Annie Kinsley, treasurer.

The immediate object was the improvement of the cemetery, which was in a terrible condition. This cemetery was situated north of the Illinois Central depot. The Aid Society contemplated buying all the remaining unsold lots.

In November, 1871, another aid society was organized and the following officers were elected: Mrs. E. B. Older, president; Mrs. G. W. Bemis, vice president; Mrs. E. C. Lillie, secretary, and Mrs. H. P. Henshaw, treasurer. This like the former after a time died out.

## TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES

In the earliest issues of the two county papers, we find notices of temperance lectures, and discussions on the merits and demerits of prohibition were conducted in the schoolhouses previous to the vote to be taken on May 24, 1857, for prohibition or for license—and license carried by a vote of 432 to 295. At the first meeting P. A. Brooks was chosen president and W. G. Donnan,

secretary, and resolutions endorsing the prohibition law were passed, and although this measure lost the agitation on temperance still continued unabated and increased in vigor until nearly every township in the county had a temperance society. Evidently there was need of reform, for numerous newspaper articles refer to public carousals indulged in, and during the war every union victory at the front and at the polls was the occasion of a public jollification, with lager and toddies flowing freely. Often a keg of beer was opened in the postoffice, where the expected crowd was assembled anxiously waiting for war news or election returns. And frequently items appeared in the papers referring in a jocular manner to some of the prominent citizens of the town becoming hilarious, and accounts of drunken brawls were numerous. But the first temperance society that we read of was organized some years previous, at a meeting of the citizens of Independence and vicinity, held at the brick schoolhouse on the west side of the river; in 1858, and known as "The Sons and Daughters of Temperance." How long this society existed we could not determine, but the next year a "Good Templars Lodge" was organized and soon had between forty and fifty members, and every meeting there were many applications for membership. There was a general desire among all the better class of citizens in Independence to advance the cause of temperance. This was a radical change, because matters had been very lax, and such laws as there were had not been enforced. The country people were said to be shunning Independence on account of the great temptations in the way of drinking and gambling. The merchants were very materially affected and the community in general seriously injured both materially and morally. (This quoted from a paper of 1861.) Suits were brought against the proprietors of grogeries and fines imposed.

The temperance societies, of which there were several in Independence and vicinity, were very active, numerous lectures, suppers, musicales, literary and dramatic entertainments were given, whereby to raise funds to further the good cause. There were the "Unity Lodge," the "Temperance Citizens," and the Temperance Union, an auxiliary to the American Temperance Union and with the same pledge. This last named society was organized in Independence in April, 1865. "Unity Lodge of Good Templars" had over two hundred members. The Good Templars was of national scope, but Iowa had more lodges than any other state. At a state meeting held at Iowa City in 1861, Miss Mary W. Chandler of Independence was elected grand W. D. M., a merited honor. Lodges were organized at Fairbank, Hazleton, Jesup, Winthrop, Quasqueton, Coy Town, and other places. The lodge at Hazleton had one hundred members and was intensely active. Twenty-eight women members made an onslaught on a saloon which had but recently commenced operations, wrecked the place and spilled all the liquid refreshments into the road. Another saloon keeper saved his stock by threatening to shoot, while the third and only other establishment of the kind was allowed three days of grace in which to move himself and his stock out of town. Upon his refusal, he was arrested. The first dealer brought suit against the women and their husbands. There was great excitement, many witnesses and much stirring and eloquent argument in the case; but the "gallant" jury inside of ten minutes brought in a verdict of "not guilty," and this ended the saloon business in Hazleton for

many years. Coy Town, a little town northeast of Hazleton, had a flourishing lodge of seventy-three members. In 1886 the Good Templars in Winthrop published a temperance paper called the Winthrop Rooter. In February, 1865, a new venture was inaugurated by the Templar societies of Independence. They circulated a paper for signatures which pledged the signers "to abstain themselves and sustain any judicious efforts to discourage the use and traffic of intoxicating drinks." About two hundred and eighty of the influential citizens signed, but this created much adverse feeling and dissension.

Their efforts continued with more or less activity and results for many years. In 1870 Unity Lodge of Good Templars fitted up a hall for their use in Burr's Block, bought an organ, furniture and fixtures and dedicated it in November with an appropriate and entertaining program.

Unity Lodge had been organized seven years, and at this time had ninety-three members. This event marked its reorganization and a renewal of its pledge to further the cause of temperance, morality and social order.

These temperance organizations have existed in more or less flourishing condition as the conditions demanded up to the present time.

In November, 1895, the Christian Citizenship League was organized in this county, and while it lasted was a power for good in the purification of the social and political atmosphere. It was thoroughly non-partisan and non-political, and was not for the purpose of creating a new society, but to bring together in a united effort the various existing organizations of whatever name which have as their object the betterment of the people, the purity of society and the respect and obedience to the laws of our Government. This was sort of an auxiliary to the National Citizens' League, which published a very interesting paper, The Christian Citizen, and a great deal of other literature. E. M. Thompson of Independence was appointed vice-president of the national league for Iowa, with power to organize local leagues throughout the state, also a member of the lecture bureau. Soon a league was started in Independence, and this league did most effective work in getting out injunctions and warrants and in fighting the liquor element at every turn.

The women had a similar organization known as the Women's Home Protective League of Buchanan County. Each township had a president and held meetings and union meetings at Independence. In July, 1896, the league at its annual meeting voted to cooperate with the W. C. T. U. As all of its members were also members of the W. C. T. U. and the work the same they thought that they could accomplish more with a national society than one which included only one county.

In 1899 the Citizens' League was vigorously agitating the injunction proceedings on account of the fraudulency of the Belknap census report in Independence. A committee composed of Messrs. D. F. Bisbee and A. G. Beatty examined carefully this census at the auditor's office and found 1,016 fraudulent names, many of them fictitious and of people who never lived here and others taken from the tombstones in the cemeteries; but as the report had been sent in to the state auditor previous to this examination, he had acknowledged their right to continue the business, and saloons opened, but injunctions were filed against them, and again they were closed and the temperance battle over this census waged for several years with various degrees of success and failure.

The Belknap census referred to was taken in 1895 by Harry Belknap, an itinerant publisher of city directories. The general dissatisfaction with the census taken by the assessor of Independence and the question of its accuracy prompted a petition from the citizens, signed by six members of the city council and addressed to the county auditor, begging a new enumeration to be made. Belknap was engaged for the sum of \$100, which sum was raised by subscription among a number of business men, the money to be paid when it was certified to by the county auditor and secretary of state. By this census Independence was credited with 5,142 population, whereas the assessor had but 3,808.

By this increased population the city was brought into the class that would, under the mullet law, permit the opening of saloons if a petition of consent could be secured. It was evident that the census was padded for a purpose, and Belknap injudiciously told his assistant that the census must reach 5,000 or he would receive no pay, and if it exceeded 5,000 that the saloon men would pay him \$500, and as the greatest possible number obtainable was 4,200, hence the fraudulent names.

The case came into court, and the defense was overruled and injunctions were granted whereby the saloons were closed for one year, but an amendment to the mullet law, which was to go into effect October 1st, which made it possible for saloons to be opened in cities of 2,500 population by securing 80 per cent of the voters on a petition of consent. This was not legitimately secured, but nevertheless in May, 1896, the saloons opened in defiance to the eternal vigilance of the temperance societies and the guardians of the law, and continued their unlawful business. In 1897 the question of legalizing the Belknap census was again brought before the people, with the same result as in 1895, and the injunction prevailed.

On June 7, 1905, injunctions were granted by Judge Blair whereby all saloons were closed in Buchanan County. This seriously affected six saloons in Independence which had been operating in defiance of the mullet law, but by a tacit agreement had paid into the city treasury \$500 per year and into the county treasurer \$300. The cases against the saloons were prosecuted by a Mr. Abrams, hailing from Des Moines, and an attorney named Aeres from Decorah. Mr. Abrams had been actively engaged in the temperance cause throughout the state and been for some time working in this county. He was not working under the direction of any temperance organization or society; his methods were according to his own personal views, and many seriously objected to his interference. At Jesup, some months previous, a mob threatened him violence if he did not desist from his malicious talk.

Since the adoption of prohibition some twenty years before (in 1885 or 1886) there had been attempts more or less strenuous to enforce the law, but all ultimately failed in towns the size of Independence. A great deal of time, money and energy have been expended fruitlessly to overcome this evil, when it was merely a proposition of enforcing the laws through the medium of the officers who represent the people and lack of cooperation and responsibility on the part of the people. In less than two months mullet petitions of consent were circulated and signed by 80 per cent of the resident voters of Independence; 721 signed the petitions and only 718 were required, and after a thorough canvass by the board of supervisors, who met in special session for the purpose,

and found the lists to be correct, the city council met and granted licenses to six applicants desirous of operating saloons. They were opened and for the first time in twenty-five years saloons operated under sanction of the law. Abrams threatened to get out new injunctions, but time elapsed and any further proceedings failed to materialize.

#### WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

An organization of this name was formed in Independence in the early days, the exact date not being obtainable owing to there having been so many temperance organizations, and this was but an outgrowth of a former society.

Then on September 2, 1889, in response to a call to the Christian women of Independence, a few women met at the home of Mrs. E. S. Grimwood for the purpose of reorganizing the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Mrs. Ephraim Leach was chosen chairman of the meeting and Mrs. E. S. Grimwood, secretary. The object of the meeting was stated and the election of officers followed, which resulted in Mrs. Grimwood being elected president, and eleven vice-presidents, one from each church organization, were elected; Mrs. W. G. Donnan, treasurer; and Mrs. E. Leach, secretary. There were sixteen charter members, as follows: Mrs. E. M. S. Grimwood, Mrs. E. Leach, Mrs. W. G. Donnan, Mrs. E. A. Blamer, Mrs. H. E. Palmer, Mrs. A. L. Palmer, Mrs. H. W. Holman, Mrs. M. E. Fording, Mrs. H. C. Markham, Mrs. Ella C. Higgins, Mrs. E. R. Higgins, Mrs. J. B. Jones, Mrs. G. H. Hill, Mrs. J. L. Smeallie, Mrs. W. S. Potwin and Mrs. N. T. Bemis. A membership in this organization means a signing of the constitution and total abstinence pledge. It was voted to adopt the constitution and by-laws recommended by the state union, and thus become an auxiliary to the Iowa W. C. T. U.

The meetings were held the third Thursday of every month at the homes of the members or at places suiting the convenience and pleasure of the society. The objects of the society, besides the furtherance of the temperance cause, have always been both educational and philanthropic.

The first meetings were very enthusiastic, often as many as sixty women being present, and the meetings still keep up their interest, although the membership is not as large as formerly.

A reporter to furnish temperance items for the local papers and the temperance periodicals is a feature of their work.

On October 31, 1889, an industrial school was established with Mrs. Narcissa Bemis as superintendent. The first meetings were held in the old High School Building. The purpose of this school was to teach the indigent children of the city how to sew and make garments, and, furthermore, to furnish the material and give them the completed garments. For ten years the W. C. T. U. women nobly carried on this charitable work, and from a very small beginning the work grew to such proportions that it was impossible for them to continue it alone, so they united with the Woman's Relief Society and for ten years more assisted in the maintenance of this school, when they withdrew their support as a society, but helped as individuals.

One of the first, if not the very first contributions given to the society for this charitable work and which deserves special mention, was a gift of \$5 by

Perry Munson, who afterwards built the fine building called by his name for the purpose of an industrial school. No public contributions were solicited, but spontaneous gifts were gratefully received.

Other philanthropic work which the Independence union did for many years was to hold religious services at the poor farm every month and once every year carry flowers, delicacies, often a fine dinner, reading matter and personal gifts to the inmates. On their annual Flower Mission Day, June 9th, they send flowers to the sick and afflicted, and besides distributing temperance literature, they have been active in circulating petitions, and in their endeavors to have the laws pertaining to temperance and morality enforced, they also contribute to the Benedict Home at Des Moines and such work as may in any way advance social purity and the temperance cause. They have bought books for the library, pictures for the public schools, given books and pictures to the city hospitals, flowers and magazines to the jails and prisons, literature to soldiers on duty, made wreaths for soldiers' graves. To mention all of their benevolences would require too much space.

The Independence W. C. T. U. has always kept closely in touch with the state and national societies, has sent delegates to conventions, contributed liberally to the different state and national organizations' interests, had union temperance meetings at the churches, lectures and entertainments and for years has contributed a column to the weekly county papers, and is now contemplating temperance work in the public schools as suggested by the state organization. This consists of offering money prizes for the best composition on temperance subjects submitted by the pupils and the work correlates with the regular English course in school.

#### BUCHANAN COUNTY SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

On the 27th of May, 1868, a convention was held in the Baptist Church, at Independence, participated in by Rev. J. M. Boggs, Rev. John Fulton, Rev. S. A. Lee, Rev. A. K. Sanford (a visitor in the city at the time), and other local pastors and laymen.

A county Sunday school association was organized by the election of Rev. J. M. Boggs, president; C. G. Woodruff, J. Irwin and D. B. Sanford, vice presidents; C. D. Jones, secretary; and L. A. Main, treasurer. Collections were taken amounting to \$15.78; \$5.50 of which was appropriated to the state association, the balance used for local expenses, except 57 cents, which was passed over to the succeeding treasurer, some eleven years later. Nothing of importance seems to have been accomplished by this organization.

At a district Sunday school convention, held in the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Independence, December 17 to 19, 1878, the county association was reorganized by the election of George B. Warne, president; H. P. Benton, vice president; and D. B. Sanford, secretary and treasurer, with an executive committee composed of W. H. Hosmer, Mrs. C. S. Knight, Mrs. T. Kittredge and W. E. Kellogg. These officers were reelected in 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883 and 1884.

For the first few years, a Sunday school column was published in the Buchanan County Bulletin, under the editorship of President Warne. During their sev-

eral terms, twenty-seven township conventions were held, and nine of the sixteen townships of the county more or less thoroughly organized.

Pres. Geo. B. Warne resigned, July 5, 1884, and during the following year, Vice Pres. H. P. Benton removed from the state. Nothing further was accomplished until April 8 and 9, 1889, when a county convention was called, and held at the Congregational Church in Independence, under the direction of state organizer, H. M. Morgan, at which the following officers were elected: President, E. M. Thompson; secretary, Mrs. G. M. Orvis; treasurer, J. E. Cook, with a vice president from each township.

From 1889, to the present time, annual county conventions have been held; some of the brightest and best of our state workers have been before our people; much has been accomplished in the years that have gone—much is yet to be done. In the words of one of our state workers, "we must go over and over our work, because people forget and get careless, and then there are always new people coming up to be trained."

Every township has been organized and reorganized, again and again. Many of them are doing excellent work, some of our township conventions rivaling many county conventions.

That the work has grown is evidenced by the fact that whereas in the early days \$15 was raised and \$5 paid for state work, we now raise \$150 to \$175 and pay to state work \$100. Where there were then a few hundred in Sunday school, our report in June, 1914, gave 3,500 members in our Sunday school. Surely our responsibility should be the greater.

E. M. Thompson was president from 1889 to 1897, except one year, when Mr. John Thompson, of Winthrop, was president. Since then the presidents have been: J. A. Wells, 1897-1903; M. L. Webster, 1903-1912; M. J. Potwin, 1912-1913; M. O. Fouts, 1913.

Mrs. Carrie Warburton Harter was elected secretary in 1901, which office she still holds, a period of thirteen years.

#### THE BUCHANAN COUNTY MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

The Buchanan County Ministerial Association, of Independence and vicinity, was organized at the Methodist parsonage, on March 18, 1895, with the following pastors present: Rev. J. W. Horner, D. W. Fahs, W. W. Carlton, A. L. Candee, of Independence, E. J. Beyer, of Hazleton, W. H. Ensign, of Jessup. Rev. J. W. Horner was elected president; Rev. W. W. Carlton, secretary and treasurer.

The object of the association is for the free and mutual exchange of thought, and to promote Christian fellowship among its members and the churches to which they ministered, and by conference and co-partnership, to increase the efficiency of their work for God and fellow man.

Their programs consist of papers and discussion on religious and practical Christian topics, and the meetings still continue to exert a deep and beneficent influence in broadening and uniting the different denominations for the common good of all.

A similar organization has been maintained in the City of Independence for many years. Discussions on religious and other subjects, pertinent to the

general social and moral welfare of the community, constitute the interesting and uplifting programs of this society.

#### BUCHANAN COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY

This association, an auxiliary to the American Bible Society, was organized July 26, 1857. The meeting called for this purpose was held in the Presbyterian Church, Independence. A representative of the American society was present and addressed the meeting. A constitution and the above name was adopted. The object of the society, as stated in its constitution, was to promote the circulation of the "Holy Scriptures without note or comment," and in English, those of the commonly received version. All persons contributing \$1.00 to its funds were entitled to one common 40-cent Bible, or its equivalent in Testaments for gratis distribution, and those contributing \$5.00, became members for life, and were entitled to one common Bible each year, for the purpose of distribution. After the adoption of the constitution, the following officers were elected: Rev. J. L. Kelley, president; Mr. Newman Curtis and Mr. C. C. Cadwell, vice presidents; Rev. John M. Boggs, secretary; Mr. William C. Morris, treasurer; Mr. J. L. Loomis and Mr. A. C. Blakeley, additional managers. Up to 1881, but seventeen annual meetings were held, but through the wise provision of the constitution, requiring the officers previously elected to hold over in such cases, the society maintained its existence for many years. When Bibles became so plentiful and cheap, the actual need of the society no longer existed, so it ceased to be.

During the years when it was active, the books of the treasurer and depositary show that on an average, \$160 worth of Bibles were purchased of the parent society, and distributed throughout the county each year succeeding 1857.

The largest number in any one year was in 1869, when over \$315 worth were distributed. In cases of inability to purchase, the distribution was gratuitous, but most of those not supplied and wishing copies, willingly paid the dollar for a Bible and 25 cents for the Testaments, charged by the American Bible Society. It would seem, from the above figures, that this society was not conducted from purely philanthropic purposes, only so far as the local society was concerned.

#### THE MUNSON FEDERATION

This was an organization of the allied clubs of the city, federated for the purpose of improving the condition of the lower floors of the Munson Building, which had become so run down and dilapidated, that they were not a fit place in which to conduct the industrial school. The first meeting of the federation was held at the Munson Building, May 17, 1907. Representatives from twelve different societies were present. Messrs. Lake, Goen, Coy, Morse and Gillett, representing the trustees and directors of the Munson Industrial School, were also present, and after discussion, they decided to assent to Colonel Lake's proposition, already submitted to the federation, whereby the federation for a stipulated amount, \$60.00 per annum, obtained control of the first floor and basement of the Munson Building for a term of three years, and could put on such improvements as deemed necessary, and sub-rent the building if desired,



with the understanding, as signified in the bequest, that the industrial school must be continued or the property would revert to the heirs. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Miss Frenella Barnhart, president; Mrs. Josephine Freeman, vice president; Carrie Steinmetz, secretary and treasurer. Steps to raise the amount necessary for repairs were immediately taken, and suppers and all kinds of entertainments were the methods employed. But before the funds were accumulated, these industrious women proceeded to clean and repair the rooms, doing much of the hard manual labor themselves. The federation expended about a thousand dollars on repairs and decorations—bought a fine piano, eight dozen chairs and other furniture, curtains, stoves, built a stage, put in a kitchen sink and lavatory, and when the room was finished, it was not only clean and comfortable, but beautiful and artistic. Each of the twelve societies which joined the federation paid \$5.00 annual dues, which entitled them to the use of the building twice during the year, and which collective sum, paid the annual rent to the directors of the building for keeping up insurance and general repairs. Then the sub-renting the rooms to individuals and outside societies for their various uses, netted the federation a goodly sum. The building proved a great source of pleasure and gratification, not alone to the members of the federation and their respective societies who had labored so hard and untiringly, but to the general public, who had long needed a suitable place for public performances. The clubs were particularly active in those first few years, and the rooms were in constant demand. Scarcely a week, but there were several entertainments therein. Church dinners, parties, dances, fairs, and farmer's institute, kept the building constantly busy. The federation itself inaugurated a series of matinee musicals, consisting of six entertainments, to be given for the benefit of the society. These entertainments were given on Monday afternoons, every week during the winter months, tickets were \$2.00 for the series. This proved a very profitable venture, both financially and socially, and many fine dramatic, musical and literary entertainments were produced. Usually light refreshments were served. These entertainments continued for two or three years, until lack of necessity proved a lack of interest.

In 1910, at expiration of the term of lease, it was renewed for a like term, which lease expired in June, 1913. The building was again rented by the federation for one year, at the end of which time the school directors of the Independence district made arrangements with the Munson trustees, whereby they took charge of the industrial school, and established the printing office and manual training equipment of the high school in the building.

No definite arrangements have, as yet, been made in regard to the domestic science courses which were pursued in these rooms, conducted by the Poor Relief Society, but probably the high school rooms will be at their disposal.

The Munson Federation has, in all probability, outlived its usefulness as a society and having accomplished its mission will pass out of existence. The splendid work accomplished by it, and the pleasure and profit of those associations leave their influence, and will remain a pleasant memory to its members and shall as far as possible be immortalized, by becoming a part of the Buchanan County history.

## LYCEUMS

In the very earliest papers, we find notices of numerous lectures and debates being given in Independence by the prominent citizens of the town. It was probably in the early fifties that the Independence Lyceum was organized and in January, 1859, the "Independence Lectures" began and both continued for some years. Generally the lectures were given by home talent, but frequently a noted speaker from abroad was procured. These lectures furnished both entertainment and instruction of a rare and cultivated sort. Just as a sample of the high class entertainments in which they indulged, we submit their programs as arranged for the year 1859. (W. Chandler, January 15th, "Progression"); (George B. Parsons, January 23d, "Liberalism vs. Ultraism"); (Jed Lake, January 29th, "Astronomy vs. Divine Revelation"); (J. C. Dimick, February 5th, "Immortality; its Metaphysics and Probabilities"); (C. E. Lathrop, February 12th, "Speech"); (C. F. Leavitt, February 19th, "Voltaire"); (C. A. L. Rozzell, February 26th, "Free Thinking"); (Matthias Harter, March 5th, "Thomas Paine"); (S. S. Allen, March 12th, "Things Not Generally Known"); (James Jamieson, March 19th, "Coincidence of Geology with Mosaic History"); (S. P. Webster, March 26th, "The Tower of Babel"); (Alfred Ingalls, April 2d, "Deism vs. Christianity"); (H. M. Bacon, April 9th, "Traps That Catch Sunbeams"); (D. S. Lee, April 16th, Subject not selected); (Stephen J. W. Tabor, April 23d, "The Noachian Deluge; its Geology, Extent and Characteristics"); J. S. Woodward, W. G. Donnan, L. W. Hart, and many other prominent citizens were often among the speakers. This certainly is a very formidable array of subjects for discussion and shows a deep and exhaustive study of history, science, literature, and theology, and moreover displays the characteristic intelligence and depth of thought of those earlier-day folks.

Such topics as the above, I dare say would be beyond the scope of comprehension of the vast majority of our money-mad, self-centered, business men. These gentlemen expended a great amount of time, energy, and research in preparing these subjects and therein laid the foundation of their universal knowledge and wide command of valuable information for later life. Very often the style of entertainment was changed and the lecture would give place to debates—of pertinent, up-to-date questions.

Independence was noted as a lecture-going community and if numbers and enthusiasm are a guarantee, still continues so. At this early time, there were three lectures each week—one before the Temperance Society, one before the Lyceum and one of the "Independence Lectures."

The Lyceum rather confined itself to debates and this lively entertainment kept the interest from lagging for many years. Questions such as, "Has a State the Right to Secede from the Union?" with such learned men as C. Hedges on the affirmative and W. S. Marshall on the negative. W. G. Donnan was president and W. S. Marshall secretary, at that time.

In Byron Township they organized a Lyceum which met once a week, also a Farmer's Club, which met weekly to discuss farm topics, a most profitable engagement.

In 1865, the Independence Lyceum was organized with the following officers: Rev. Henry Adams, president; W. G. Donnan, vice president; J. L. Loomis, secretary; Lieutenant Hemenway, treasurer; D. D. Holdridge, librarian. Esquire Chandler, General Dickinson and Albert Clark as executive committee.

Quasqueton, too, had the "Liberty" Lyceum, conducted along the same lines as the one at Independence. Reverend Smith was president; G. W. Heath, vice president; L. H. Gould, secretary; Thomas Turner, treasurer. Both Jesup and Littleton had lyceums and indulged in joint debates.

At Ward's Corners they had a very active lyceum, indulging in all kinds of programs and discussions from Woman's Suffrage to Stock Raising.

These lyceums kept up in interest for many years, scarcely a community but had some such organization and their refining and broadening influence and educational value can never be estimated. The lecture courses which have been established in the cities and many of the smaller towns have practically annihilated the old-fashioned lyceum, which is to be regretted, for although the lectures and entertainments are highly enjoyable and profitable, they do not develop any forensic or literary ability.

#### CHAUTAUQUA LITERARY CIRCLE

Like so many of the most successful undertakings, the Chautauqua Literary Circle has been an evolution from an unpretentious beginning to a useful and important factor in the life of the community. For the inception of this organization, Mrs. J. N. Ritchie deserves the credit.

The club was organized in January, 1882, being four months late in starting, but so enthusiastic were the members that they passed their written examinations the following year. Some of them studied like school girls, four and five hours a day. There were five charter members, as follows: Mrs. J. N. Ritchie, Mrs. J. B. Jones, Miss Carrie Bartle, Mrs. W. H. Chamberlain, and Mrs. H. A. Fisher. Later in the year Mrs. Gearheart and Mrs. Gersham H. Hill joined the club. The class graduated in 1885. One member, Mrs. Jones, going to Chautauqua to graduate, where she received her diploma and with it seven seals, which were given for special courses of reading accomplished during the four years. One of the members of the Chautauqua, though not a member of this club, received for special courses in reading, twenty-six seals.

The club grew in membership and interest as the years went by and in 1897 decided to affiliate themselves with the State Federation of Women's Clubs. This was accomplished through the untiring efforts of Mrs. J. W. Lamb, Mrs. Mary Allen and Mrs. Charlotte Hussey Ross. Whereas self-culture had been the primary object of the club, after federation the club broadened and its sympathies were enlisted toward social betterment and such topics as household economy, civics, child labor, industrial conditions, juvenile courts, public health, liquor traffic, and suffrage form topics for the study program. These expressed the keynote—"Service." The club began to serve others as well as themselves.

In 1899, the name of the club was changed to the Alice Carrey Circle, objection being made to the use of the name Chautauqua, when that study was not a feature of the program, but the old name was resumed the following year.

The course of study pursued during the past years included art, literature, history, travel, and religion and for several years the Bay View course was followed.

In 1911, the membership reached fifty under the leadership of Mrs. D. W. Fiester, a woman of broad sympathies.

The special occasions which the Chautauqua observe are Washington's birthday, which for years included not only a patriotic program, but a dinner at the hospitable home of Mrs. E. Little. Another red letter occasion is demonstrated by a favorite recipe day and a guest night on the anniversary of the club, when occurs a club banquet and a program consisting of music and literary numbers, and for the past four or five years this entertainment has been an original play, one written by Mrs. Mary Chappell, another by Mrs. Katharyn Chappell, members of the club, which were highly enjoyable and a decided success, and developed some astonishing histrionic abilities among the members. Two of these plays were repeated in the Independence High School Auditorium, at which admission was charged, which proved a great financial success.

The Chautauqua Literary Circle has identified themselves with all public enterprises and liberally contributed to home institutions as well as outside interests. They have contributed a handsome divanport to the high school rest room and \$35.00 to the High School Athletic Association and in 1913, \$40.00 to the scholarship loan fund. They have also given to sufferers from flood, fire and war, contributed books to the public library, and last year inaugurated the Good Fellows' Stocking Idea, for the poor of our city.

The club now has a membership of forty-nine, among whom are not only young and middle aged women, but some of the oldest ladies in the community, who, although past three score years and ten, study with enthusiasm and seem to have discovered in the C. L. C., a fountain of youth by the perpetual joy in its work.

#### THE SHAKESPEARE CLUB

The Shakespeare Club was organized in Independence in the winter of 1897 through the instrumentality of Captain Holman, who was its leading spirit until 1903, when he removed to Oelwein. The removal of Captain Holman, following the death of Stephen Tabor, took from the club two of its most brilliant and enthusiastic members and the organization was abandoned.

This club, which as its name signifies, worshiped and studied at the shrine of that peer of all literary geniuses, Shakespeare, and the men and women who for several winters enjoyed the weekly meetings of this club gained a wide knowledge and understanding of those masterpieces of drama.

Many years previous, in the early '80s, another Shakespeare Club had flourished in Independence. Whether they be Lord Bacon's or Shakespeare's, the products of that marvelous creative mind has always maintained a host of admirers in every village and hamlet where the English language is spoken.

#### THE INDEPENDENCE SOCIABLE

In 1861, "The Independence Sociable" society was organized. Its members were the Liberal Friends, known as the Universalist or Liberal Christians,

although they maintained that there would be nothing of a denominational, or sectarian character about their meetings.

They were to be simply social gatherings and the proceeds were to be devoted each week to charitable purposes.

The form of their entertainments was wide and varied, including dancing, tableaux, charades, chess, checkers, backgammon, whist, and "the idea of doing good" will be the purest, most sparkling drop in our brimming cup of social enjoyment.

Their first object of charity was the Soldiers' Aid Society, then, when their help in that direction was not needed, they would seek out the poor of the village. If there were none such, they would find an object, wretched and miserable enough on the Main Street sidewalks, or they could contribute their mites toward a fence around the forlorn and desolate burying ground.

Five cents was the stipend for all these pleasures and all these charities, but calls were made in those early days and money scarce though it went comparatively farther. This society prospered for quite a while and did some real good, both financially and socially in the village.

#### THE ATHENIAN SOCIETY

In May, 1870, the Athenian Society was started in Independence by the young men, having for its object mutual improvement and the acquisition of a knowledge of parliamentary rules and usages and the incitement of its members to study and research. Their programs consisted of select readings, declamations, essays, orations and debates. I. H. Carter was president; C. D. Jones, secretary; Daniel Burr, treasurer.

#### THE INDEPENDENCE READING CIRCLE

The Independence Reading Circle was organized in September, 1875, by the young people of the town, for the purpose as set down in the preamble of their constitution, of mental and moral improvement and social advancement. It was in existence many years and judging from its constancy to its aims and purposes, exerted an elevating and refining influence in the social and literary circles of Independence. Its meetings were held bi-weekly, and with great regularity, and for five or six years, with the exception of but an occasional meeting, excellent literary programs were produced.

#### THE INDEPENDENCE DRAMATIC CLUB

The Independence Dramatic Club was another organization worthy of mention. It comprised a membership of powerful histrionic artists and many and fine were the productions which they put on in the early days. Nothing seems to have been beyond their limitations, numerous Shakespearean and other high class dramas were produced every winter. The club generously contributed their time and talent for the benefit of all public enterprises and several very laudable projects were their especial charge, the Public Library being one.

In 1880 the club disbanded, several of the members being unable to devote the time necessary for the work, but nevertheless Independence was not without theatrical attractions. For years they were extremely popular here and scarcely a winter without the production of two or three home talent plays. These productions were, according to the critics of the day, far above the average and much better than most of the traveling troupes produced. Professor Gibney was director of several exceptionally fine productions.

#### INDEPENDENCE MUSICAL ASSOCIATION

In Independence, in 1869, was organized the Independence Musical Association, the first musical society of any importance in Independence. This association numbered sixty members, among them the very best singers and musicians in the city. This association gave very fine concerts and in the winter of 1870-71 engaged a Professor Buun, of Cedar Falls, to drill them in classical music and the opera. After several months of diligent practice, they concluded that they had arrived at such a degree of excellence as to warrant them in appearing before the public; so in 1870 they gave a concert at Munson's Hall, under the direction of Messrs. Myers, Holdridge and Jacobs; solos, duets, trios, quartettes and choruses were included in the program, and the concert quite fulfilled every expectation.

In March, 1871, this society, in connection with the Cedar Falls Philharmonic Society and Waverly Musical Association, gave a grand concert at Independence; the program included choruses from the oratorios of Haydn, Mozart, Rossini and others.

In April, 1873, another musical society was organized among the young people of Independence.

#### LADIES' MUSICAL SOCIETY

On the afternoon of November 11, 1884, a number of ladies met at the residence of Mrs. J. B. Jones, for the purpose of forming a musical organization. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Richard Campbell, who acted as temporary chairman. The object of the meeting was stated to be an incentive to practice and a means of entertainment, and the following officers were elected: Mrs. R. Campbell, president; Mrs. J. B. Jones, vice president; Mrs. Archer E. Clarke, secretary. There were about thirty charter members.

Meetings were held every third Tuesday afternoon, alternately at the houses of Mrs. J. B. Jones and Mrs. R. Campbell, and each member present was expected to be prepared to appear on the program. Later the time of meetings was changed to every fourth Tuesday, and this custom is still adhered to, the meetings now being held the first Tuesday evening of each month, from October to June, inclusive. The latter custom was soon changed and the society was divided into two divisions, the Enterpeans and Cecilians, with chairmen appointed, who should have charge of a certain number of programs. The stimulus of this harmonious rivalry produced some very excellent programs. Now members conform to the printed programs, which designate who shall take part on certain programs.

At this first meeting, a very fine program, consisting of eleven numbers, was given. Two of those appearing on that first program are honorary members of the organization, and one, Mrs. C. D. Jones, is still an active member. Many of the charter members are still actively interested in music, although they do not retain their membership in this organization. All of the first programs gave evidence of careful preparation and great interest in their own and the society's progress. The members studied diligently and nothing seemed too ambitious for their efforts. Grand operas, oratorios and the great masters occupied their attention. Not for two years did this unusual society deem it necessary to draw up a constitution and code of laws. The first public entertainment given by the society was on New Year's Eve, 1885, at the Presbyterian Church, for the benefit of the Ladies' Social Society of that church. The next was given for the Episcopal Church, and the third, for the Methodist. Musical recitals and concerts have been a feature of the programs.

In the first four years of its organization it had registered fifty-two members, held forty-nine sessions, given three public entertainments for the benefit of churches, and seven parlor concerts, to which each member invited a guest. The society had studied 144 composers, very many of whom were classical.

It seems that the work of the society was not confined just to the study of music, as the following legislative business will testify. In February, 1888, this society presented a petition to the Legislature, favoring the introduction of vocal music into the public schools throughout the state.

On November 1, 1889, the society gave its initial grand concert, at the Baptist Church, with imported artists, Miss Neally Stevens, pianist, of Chicago, Miss Anna Louise Allen, of New York, vocalist, and Miss Lena D. Rowley, of Cedar Rapids, accompanist. These three were all fine artists, and the concert proved a rare treat, and the large appreciative audience which was in attendance made it a financial success as well.

In 1899 the society joined the National Federation of Musical Clubs, and revised their by-laws to include male members. For some years printed programs were a feature of each meeting.

In January, 1901, Mrs. P. G. Freeman, a charter member of the society, and one who was always actively interested in its welfare, died, and Mrs. C. R. Wallace dedicated a very beautiful poem to her memory, which was spread on the minutes of the society.

For many years, the society gave a spring concert at the hospital. In June, 1901, the society gave its first public sacred concert. The choruses were under the direction of Mr. Frank Martindale, the noted singer and composer, who was for several years a resident of Independence.

This society had given several high-class concerts with imported artists, among the best were Max Bendix, the famous violinist, Dudley Buck, Jr., the noted singer, Axel Skovgaard, Danish vocalist, Professor Winberly, pianist, Professor Bryson, violinist, Miss Beatrice Pickthal, soprano, Miss Cleveland, of Waterloo, and others of lesser fame. The concerts with the home talent artists, of which the society membership has included several noted ones, have been equally as meritorious, and in November, 1913, "The Hiking Suffragette," a musical comedy, composed by two of the members, was given. Every fifth year since its organization, the society has celebrated its anniversary with spe-

cial attractions, such as banquets and fine programs. The society has been organized over thirty years, has held over three hundred meetings, and has had probably one hundred and seventy-five members enrolled.

At present, 1914, it numbers twenty-nine active members, nine associate members, and three honorary.

This society has always been associated with the other organizations in all the public improvement enterprises.

#### THE MENDELSSOHN MUSICAL CLUB

The Mendelssohn Musical Club was organized in the winter of 1900, with thirteen charter members, as follows: Mrs. C. E. Purdy, Mrs. D. F. Logan, Mrs. C. E. Rosemond, Mrs. A. M. Donnan, Miss Elva Lamb, Miss May Sherman, Mrs. C. E. Ransier, Mrs. R. F. Clarke, Mrs. F. B. Ireland, Miss Daisy Tabor, Miss Alice Herrick, Miss Kate Clarke, and Mrs. H. C. Chappell.

The meetings were to be strictly informal, no officers were elected and no constitution or by-laws were adopted. The society was equally divided into the F and G clefs and the programs were under the direction of a chairman appointed from each clef. Members were expected to take part when possible. The society was conducted along these lines for several years, when on account of the growing membership, it was deemed expedient to elect officers, adopt a constitution and by-laws, and have printed year-books. At the election the following were chosen as officers of the society: Mrs. Lillian Rosemond, president; Mrs. Katharyn Chappell, vice president; Miss Katharyn Bitner, secretary and treasurer.

The Mendelssohn Club held meetings once a month at the homes of the members, and many fine programs were produced, the different composers and their works were studied and much profit, as well as pleasure, was the result. Every year a Mendelssohn program was a special feature on the anniversary of that great composer's birthday. Several public concerts were given, some by home talent, and some by out-of-town artists, among them Mlle. Linne, the noted brilliant Chicago vocalist, Mrs. Watson, the sweet singer and composer from Cedar Rapids and the Wendall Heighton concert company.

Owing partially to lack of interest, and so many of the members leaving town, the club did not continue its regular meetings in 1910, but reorganized on January 10, 1911, at which time the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Minnie Logan; first vice president, Miss Jessamine Harmon; second vice president, Mrs. Katharyn Chappell; secretary and treasurer, Miss Carrie Wackerbarth. Meetings have occurred at irregular intervals ever since and the society, although not particularly active, is not dead, but in a comatose state, and while it was an active organization, it was interested in, and contributed to, all public enterprises.

The organization has had enrolled each year, about fifteen to forty members.

#### INDEPENDENCE MUSICIANS

That Independence has always been a musical center is attested not only by the splendid musical societies and high-grade concerts which have been produced here by home talent, but the many musical organizations which have started



out from Independence and the musicians and singers who have occupied positions abroad and met with success. It would be impossible to name all who have made a reputation in the musical world who have at one time lived here, but these few are familiar to the present generation.

The Smale Sisters Concert Company was one of the first Independence organizations to try their fortune as a traveling institution. This company was composed of the Misses Smale, Lulu, Della and Nell, all gifted artists, and very versatile, giving a fine program and one of extensive repertoire. Miss Lulu was the soprano and pianist of this company, Miss Della, reader and violinist, Miss Nell, as soprano, soloist and violinist. With them at different times went Miss Lillian Donnan, contralto; Bertha Trask, reader; Miss Bess Toman, alto; Clara Agatha Slotterbec, reader; and Mable J. Delaney, soprano.

The Gaylord sisters also started out with a company composed of Misses Fannie and Jessie Gaylord, both clever and versatile artists—Miss Fannie as pianist and alto, Miss Jessie as violinist—Miss Elizabeth Darling, soprano; and Miss Leta Holman, musician.

The Holman family were a particularly gifted and versatile family in a musical way, and had several different organizations of their own. Miss Grace Holman traveled with the McGibney Concert Troupe and married Hugh McGibney, a fine violinist. She traveled as a reader and impersonator; Miss Leta as musician, Miss Maybelle as violinist and Mrs. Holman as leader and vocalist.

Mr. Frank Martindale, composer of "Only a Pansy Blossom," and numerous other popular and beautiful ballads and a member of the famous Howard Male Quartette, shortly before he moved away from Independence started out with a fine company of his own, known as the Frank Howard Concert Company.

George Backus, a fine pipe organist, for many years played in the leading churches of Chicago and went abroad as accompanist for King Clark, the noted singer, and remained in Paris for several years.

Miss Marion Chapman, a pipe organist of note, taught at Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

Mr. Will Delaney for many years has been with numerous musical organizations, on the Chautauqua and other Lyceum platforms, and the tenor soloist of some fine male quartets. Miss Mabel I. Delaney, now Mrs. Frank McPike, for years occupied the position of soloist with the Schubert Concert Company, and has occupied many prominent church positions in the different cities where she has lived.

Miss Mary Davis, now Mrs. Frank Barker, also was a member of the Schubert Concert Company for several years as contralto soloist, and has occupied the position of pipe organist and soloist at the Methodist Episcopal Church of this city for many years.

Miss Anna Rosemire was another gifted soprano who left this city as a concert singer, traveling with the Schuberts and other organizations and her brother, Will Rosemire, was also a member of different musical organizations.

Miss Elizabeth Blamer, a soprano traveled with the Eugene Cowles Concert Company and the Herbert Butler Concert Company, and was soloist in several city churches.

Miss Ida Thompson was soloist in Des Moines, Chicago and Brooklyn churches, and her sister, Miss Nellie Thompson, has held prominent positions as choir and concert singer.

Miss Ethel Jones, soprano, is now occupying a fine position in the Ravenswood Congregational Church in Chicago, as soloist.

Miss Marion Ransier has gained an enviable reputation as a pianist, studying under the very best teachers in both Chicago and New York and finishing in the famous Damrosch Conservatory of Music, and now occupies a position as instructor in the Waterloo Conservatory of Music.

Mrs. Elsie Travis Miller is another singer who had made an enviable reputation with her beautiful voice, and occupied a fine church position in one of the leading churches of Clinton.

Mrs. Herbert Watrous, formerly Miss Elizabeth Jayne, probably is our widest known musician, having scaled the heights to grand opera. For several seasons she has been with the Aborn Grand Opera Company, taking the leading part in several operas.

Besides this long list of artists who have made an enviable reputation abroad, we have as numerous a list of gifted artists who have never been members of a traveling organizations, but have graced the platform in Independence and surrounding cities many times.

#### THE INDEPENDENCE BAND

In September, 1904, was organized another city band, with E. W. Raymond as leader. The band numbered twenty-seven pieces. Band concerts were given every Saturday night. Overtures, popular and classic music constituted the programs.

This article can be supplemented with ditto marks at least several times. Since Mr. Raymond's advent to the city, over a quarter of a century ago, he has probably organized more musical organizations than Sousa or Hi Henry were ever guilty of.

Scarcely a year, and never more than three passed without a band of some kind or description being organized out of raw material by this tireless enthusiast; and that the people appreciate the effort is attested by the liberal patronage at all their free concerts, and the applause unstintingly given their rendition of "Home, Sweet Home," and other classical compositions, besides the fact that, periodically, the merchants are called upon to donate toward securing this promiscuous band prodigy uniforms. And to be just to Independence gratitude, the numerous orchestra and band concerts, with ticket attachments, have been liberally patronized and highly commended.

Independence has had fully as many, if not more, bands than most cities of its size, even before the baton of Mr. Ed Raymond began doing business. This notice in the May 9, 1888, Conservative proves interesting reading. Friday evening a number of our public-spirited young musicians of Independence met and organized a brass band to do duty as required during the coming season, embracing as it does, besides the usual holidays, a presidential campaign.

The eleven members were: Jacob Wackerbarth, president; J. F. Ickel, secretary and treasurer; Laut Pond, leader; Albert Leytze, Joe Limbert, Will

Leytze, Ed Pleins, E. Romig, Richard Bushgens, Frank Megow and M. S. Carver. These were all musicians of more or less experience and the public would not have to go through the painful "one-an', two-an', three-an'" stage. The boys were worthy and received the public patronage and encouragement.

#### THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Independence High School Alumni Association dates its origin from the year 1889.

Prof. L. W. Parish, then superintendent of public schools, encouraged and assisted those who were interested in its formation, and to him can be attributed much of the success of those early meetings.

In the spring of that year a meeting was held at the home of Dr. H. C. Markham which resulted in the election of the following officers: Mary G. Slotterbee, president; Anna Deering, vice-president; Nathan M. Evers, secretary; Haven Harter, treasurer; Annie P. Tabor, historian.

The first meeting of the organization was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Purdy on the night following the annual commencement, a banquet at Burris' following the reception.

For several years the alumni meetings were entertainments at the homes of the members, and the banquets were held at Burris', but the membership became so large that a private house could not comfortably accommodate them, so in 1895 the Gedney was selected as the place of meeting, and, with the exception of four times, they held their reunions there. The entertainments at these meetings always include a very fine musical and literary program, consisting of the usual alumni class exercises, addresses of welcome and response, class poem, prophecy and history and banquet followed by toasts, an "Auld Lang Syne" social hour and sometimes dancing.

Six hundred and five students have graduated from the Independence High School and are enrolled on the alumni roster. The first class that completed the course was in 1877, with three graduates, the smallest class in 1882, consisting of only two members, and the largest in 1906, with thirty-two members, and an average of sixteen in a class. Although the first class graduated in 1877, the high school has only thirty-seven classes to its credit, there being no graduates in 1887.

In 1890 Gradus Honorius diplomas were granted W. M. Woodward and Robert E. Leach.

Members of the I. H. S. Alumni are scattered all over the United States and are represented in every profession and walk of life; many names are connected with big business concerns; some have won distinction and honor; twenty-four have died; the majority have married; and about two hundred of the alumni still reside in Independence; sixty-five of this number were members in classes from 1889 to 1900.

Among those prominent in the work of the association in the early years of its existence and who were largely responsible for its continued success may be mentioned: Mrs. C. E. Purdy, Mrs. R. G. Swan, Mr. A. H. Wallace, Miss Minnie Markham, Mr. Milton Smith, Miss Harriet Lake, Mr. George Steinmetz, Dr. J. H. McGready and Mr. Jacob Steinmetz.

## CAMP FIRE GIRLS

On September 15th a competitive examination was held, open to girls of the high school of Independence for membership in prospective camp fire organizations.

As a result, the twenty girls were deemed eligible and of these, ten girls grouped themselves together on September 17th for organization, and adopted the name of so much local significance, Wapsipiniccon. The guardian of this fire is Myrtle V. Sunderlin.

A few days later the second group organized under the name of Yelth, which means the raven—a friend to man—with Ocea B. Norris as guardian.

The demand soon became so great for a third group that Miss Jean Thompson became guardian of a camp fire of younger girls, which adopted the name Wampadeska, which signifies "White Eagle's Camp."

## BOY SCOUTS

In the fall of 1913 John L. Cherny and H. C. Chappell proposed to organize a troop of Boy Scouts, and on October 6th, a meeting was called which elected Prof. John L. Cherny, president; Rev. Theo. Morning, vice president; Dr. E. A. Schrader, secretary and R. B. Raines, treasurer. An executive committee composed of George Blamer, E. E. Everett, H. C. Chappell and Rev. M. J. Loeke were chosen, who on October 7th elected Theo. Morning, H. C. Chappell and Prof. H. L. Fogler, scout masters.

Messrs. Morning and Chappell each organized a troop consisting of from twenty-five to thirty boys. This movement is still in a flourishing condition and is proving both pleasant and profitable to the members.

Leslie Worley of Rowley, who was a member at Independence, organized a troop at his home town in the winter of 1914 and Dr. C. B. Rentz of that place is the scout master.

At Winthrop is another troop, under the supervision of Rev. A. E. Jewett, scout master, and at Hazleton still another, with Rev. C. F. Boetler, scout master.

## BUCHANAN COUNTY PYTHIAN ASSOCIATION

In 1896 the Knights of Pythias joined in fraternal union as the Buchanan County Pythian Association for the purpose of inaugurating an annual Pythian picnic. The meeting of organization was held at Independence May 3, 1896. Delegates from all the Knights of Pythias lodges were present. The permanent officers elected were: H. A. Allen, president, Independence; J. A. Kinney, secretary, Aurora; H. S. Searles, treasurer, Hazleton.

The first meeting was held in a beautiful grove on the bluffs near the Hazleton mill pond. Excursion trains carried the Independence people, and the weather being unusually fine over six hundred people assembled. All kinds of sports and athletic contests were indulged in, besides a program of speeches and music.

The dinner tables were laid in triangular form and were sufficient to accommodate the entire crowd.

The association was composed of the several lodges of the county—Independence, Jesup, Aurora, Lamont, Hazleton, Fairbank and Stanley. The intentions to keep up this association annual picnic were good, but the necessary stimulus was lacking, so some years have elapsed without a recurrence of the happy event. The Masonic fraternity also had a county organization, likewise the Odd Fellows; and both these organizations were extremely active and popular for at least one day of the 365, that was when the annual picnic brought together all the nabobs and high chiefs of lodgedom and their better halves and offspring at one of the public parks at the county seat or at some beautiful grove or picnic ground at one of the other towns to enjoy real fraternal intercourse and the regulation picnic program, big "eats," big talk and big stunts.

Both of these annual festivities have been discontinued of late years, undoubtedly due to the fact that picnics are so numerous and so many other means of enjoyment take up the time and attention of even the most staid and unprogressive patriarch lodge man. In fact, the automobile has taken the place of all other recreations to a large extent.

#### THE OAKWOOD CEMETRY ASSOCIATION

Thursday eve, April 4, 1901, members of the Rebekah, Eastern Star and P. E. O. societies met at the C. F. Herrick home for the purpose of uniting and effecting an organization to improve and care for Oakwood Cemetery, which was in a dreadfully neglected condition. The following officers were elected: President, Miss Kate Leytze; vice-president, Mrs. J. O. Littlejohn; treasurer, Mrs. L. C. Fiester; recording secretary, Miss Alice Herrick. Committees were appointed to attend to the various needs of the grounds, solicit patronage of resident lot owners and to correspond with non-resident lot owners and to get up an entertainment for the purpose of raising funds. A constitution and the name, "Oakwood Cemetery" were adopted at the second meeting. Meetings were held once a month during the spring and summer, from March to September, at the Y. M. C. A. rooms. At the annual meeting, in April, 1902, a change in the constitution was made whereby anyone interested might become a member instead of confining the membership to the three charter societies.

Immediately upon organization, the women began improving the place. Men were employed to rake, mow, seed and grade lots; many beautiful flower beds were made, and hardy plants and shrubs planted; the thick, scraggy underbrush was cut down, trees trimmed, baskets provided for rubbish, numerous water hydrants put at convenient places, the walks and driveways leveled and cleaned, and a general air of beauty and order soon prevailed. The society attended to all graves not otherwise cared for. In July, 1904, the association was incorporated. During the years of the association's activity, the women employed various means to raise money, and were unusually fortunate in every undertaking.

Suppers, dances and some very novel entertainments were given for this purpose, among them two horse shows. The first one was held at Rush Park race track, September, 1902. Mr. A. G. Rigby acted as chairman of the occasion, and made it such a decided success the society cleared \$200. The affair was

repeated the next year with still greater success, the net receipts aggregating \$525.95. This was held at the county fair grounds, and A. G. Righy again acted as chairman. Silver cups and money prizes were given to the prettiest flower-trimmed carriages. A more detailed description of these affairs appears in the "History of Independence."

At one time the association was in such a prosperous condition that they had \$500 out at interest. The association has worked hard and faithfully to accomplish their object and have expended their money judiciously and with decided results, as a view of Oakwood Cemetery will testify. A comparison between the disreputable looking grounds which they found in 1901 and the clean, orderly and beautiful place which it is today is a satisfactory testimony to their labors. The association has not been particularly active for the past few years, there being no special need for it, and the general well-kept appearance of the grounds is an incentive for everyone owning lots there to keep them in order.

The last annual meeting was held in October, 1905, when officers were elected and other business transacted.

The grounds are still looked after by the association, but no regular meetings are held.

#### THE FARMERS MUTUAL PROTECTIVE SOCIETY

A Farmers Mutual Protective Society was formed in Quasqueton in February, 1862, and elected the following officers: Captain, James Rees; lieutenant, John Neidy; president, James Biddinger; vice-president, James Rees; treasurer, Morris Todd; secretary, George W. Heath. A riding committee of sixteen was one of the features. There were other organizations of this nature in the county, one a mutual protection and detective society, organized in Independence and vicinity, and had over a hundred members, of which G. B. Parsons was president; E. J. Pratt, secretary; and J. H. Campbell, treasurer. They had a vigilance committee of twelve members. G. B. Parsons was captain; J. M. Westfall, first lieutenant; and W. A. Jones, second lieutenant. The object of these organizations was to protect themselves against horse thieves. Throughout the entire western country these depredations were constantly taking place. In this county many valuable horses had been stolen and no very concentrated or systematic efforts had been made by the county officials to recover the animals, and without telegraph and telephones or other means of communication, it was almost futile to try. So the farmers in sheer desperation formed these societies and determined to administer justice as they saw fit. All honest men were invited to join this mutual protection society. Another mutual protection society was formed in 1862 by the citizens who had suffered loss from the railroad company.

There being no fences the stock wandered onto the railroad tracks and great numbers were killed and the railroad company refused to pay a just compensation, so their mutual grievances induced them to organize to defend their rights.

#### THE GRANGE MOVEMENT

Granges are secret societies organized among the farmers for social enjoyment, instruction and protection from the monopolies and trusts which have

proved deleterious to their interests. No discussions that involved religious sectarianism or party politics were allowed. Their meetings and whatever political power the granges exerted were not generated and directed by machinery operated in their lodge rooms. The "Patrons of Husbandry," as the order at large was called, was first organized in 1867 by O. H. Kelly, of Boston, and William Saunders, of the agricultural bureau of Washington, D. C. For three or four years the order increased slowly, but from 1871 to 1874, inclusive, it spread over the country like a prairie fire.

In the early '70s there were many granges throughout the state which were in a flourishing condition and did much to protect and encourage the farmers. This movement has gradually died out and we know of no grange yet in existence, although there are other societies of similar purpose.

The first grange was established in Buchanan County in 1873 or 1874. No grange could be established within five miles of another and at one time there were thirty-five in this county. In 1881 they had decreased to twelve. There was formerly a county grange which sent delegates to the state grange, as that organization did to the national. The county grange ceased to exist about the year 1877 or 1878, but the granges in the county continued to send delegates to the state organization.

Membership in the grange was restricted to practical farmers or horticulturists, together with their wives and children over fourteen years of age.

The officers of a grange were the master, overseer, the chaplain, lecturer, steward, assistant steward, gatekeeper, secretary, and treasurer. Any or all of these offices could be occupied by women, but there were four offices which none but women could fill, namely, those of Ceres, Pomona, Flora, and stewardess. A deputy grand master for each county was appointed by the grand master, namely, the master of the state grange, who had the general oversight of all the granges, settling all questions of order, jurisdiction, organizing all new granges, etc.

In 1881 S. Cameron, of Otterville, was the deputy grand master for Buchanan County. At Hazleton the patrons owned a warehouse for handling grain and shipping direct from the producers. The upper story was a hall in which their meetings were held. The granges elsewhere throughout the county met at the schoolhouses or private dwellings. At Otterville they had a store at which goods (mostly groceries) were sold only to members of the order at first cost. Members of the grange were compelled to buy goods of merchants who were members of the order.

The principal object of the grange was to cut out the middlemen's profits and ship produce direct to the consumer and to receive goods in a like manner, but their interests were not confined to purely selfish motives, for many times they were called upon to help the poor and afflicted and always responded liberally. After the big fire at Independence in 1873, several of the granges in this vicinity passed resolutions of sympathy, gave financial aid and promised the discouraged business men their patronage and support to help them retrieve their fortunes. The granges were also a very social organization, and most places in the county took charge of the Fourth of July and other public celebrations, held numerous picnics and social meetings. The papers were full of accounts of their proceedings, both festive and business.

As late as in February, 1897, Independence Grange No. 799 was organized by Deputy E. L. Hale, of Ohio, with fifty-four charter members. W. H. Miller was elected master and H. H. Miller, secretary.

What this grange accomplished we are not prepared to state.

For several years the granges were a most dominant feature politically, socially and economically, and although the political policy of the granges purported to be entirely non-partisan, yet were strong enough as an organization, to compel the existing political parties to present only such men for election as would honestly and justly represent their interests and those of a farming community, and the political parties catered to their demands as best they could, and if representatives did not fulfil their expectations, the grangers were not slow to announce that fact and bring the recreant to an accounting, as was demonstrated in the case of our representative.

On June 4, 1873, the Patrons of Husbandry held a grand mass meeting and picnic in Independence, probably the largest picnic ever held in the county, at which, notwithstanding the heavy rains the day before, which practically debarred several granges in the east and north parts of the county from participating, 1,500 grangers were in council. Before 7 A. M., delegations began to arrive from different parts of the county, dressed in the regalia of the order, and bearing banners decked with ribbons and bearing inscriptions of various significance. Every wagon was filled with its freight of provisions as well as human freight.

At 11 o'clock they were all assembled at the courthouse, where the procession was formed by the marshal, Capt. J. M. Miller. It started through Main Street for the picnic grounds on the west side of the river, on River Street, preceded by martial music. The procession was over a mile long, the number of teams being variously estimated from two hundred to two hundred and fifty.

The orator of the day was A. S. Welch, of the Iowa Agricultural College, and his subject was "Education and Farm Work," and was replete with "sound thought, irresistible logic, felicitous illustrations and valuable counsel," according to newspaper critics. Music and recitations and toasts completed the program.

Among the banners bearing inscriptions, were the following: "Farmers still alive," "We pay as we go," "God and our right," "In God we trust," "Better days are coming," "Equal pay for equal labor," "Justice and equity," "Home manufactures," "Industry, economy, prosperity," "Home markets," and others equally significant.

#### THE INDEPENDENCE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Independence Horticultural Society was organized February 15, 1872, and held regular monthly meetings. President, J. S. Bouck; vice president, D. S. Lee; secretary and treasurer, J. L. Loomis; executive committee, Dr. George Warne, E. B. Older and John Wiley.

The object of the society was the advancement of the science and art of horticulture, floriculture, arboriculture and pomology throughout Buchanan County, by means of stated meetings, for speeches, essays, and discussions, and



by public exhibitions. Meetings were held once a month and great good was derived therefrom.

Everything pertaining to the interests of this subject and to the advancement of the county's welfare was thoroughly discussed and the conclusions arrived at were carefully followed with the most satisfactory results.

In Byron Township, in 1870, there was organized a farmers' club, and this organization was extremely active and progressive. They subscribed a fund and bought some very fine stock for breeding purposes.

#### THE BUCHANAN COUNTY POULTRY ASSOCIATION

The Buchanan County Poultry Association was organized in Independence in 1886, and the first fair was held in February of that year. From two to four day meetings were held every year. J. M. Parker was one of the enthusiastic organizers and boosters. Meetings were held in King's old opera house, when the meeting convened at Independence. The best one they held was in December, 1890. Nearly all the aristocratic birds in this and the adjoining counties, numbering nearly eight hundred fowls, were on exhibition, and some very fine specimens of the numerous varieties represented. The services of Mr. I. K. Feleh, a professional scorer from Massachusetts, were secured, and one of the provisions of the contract was, that he should judge for no other association in the state. Arrangements had been made with all the railroads to carry passengers to the show for one fare for the round trip. The association offered liberal premiums, amounting to \$200, in addition to special premiums. Mr. Feleh pronounced it one of the finest collections of fowls he had seen in the West. In order to defray expenses, a 10-cent admission was charged all male visitors, the ladies were honorary guests; an exhibitor's ticket cost 50 cents. At the first meeting, in 1886, the association cleared \$93.25.

This, the first poultry society, was formed from an earnest desire to promote the industry and improve the stock of this, one of the biggest industries of Buchanan County. From carefully collected figures, it was estimated that the product of the county at that early day was 500,000 pounds of poultry, 250,000 dozen eggs which, at the cheap prices of that time, would easily reach \$60,000; and this could in a short time be doubled. The prominent promoters of this enterprise were elected to the following offices: Dr. D. W. Howard, president; E. L. Currier, secretary and B. W. Tabor, treasurer. Thirty-nine fanciers exhibited coops.

The association was reorganized November, 1911, with W. J. Campbell of Jesup as president, and J. K. Henderson, secretary, and a membership of seventy-three.

Each year a very successful show has been given at Independence, and the one in November, 1914, has never been surpassed in the county either by the number of birds displayed or in receipts. The present officers are H. C. Chappell, president, C. J. Friedman, secretary, and O. E. Funnif, superintendent.

#### THE WAPSIE VALLEY POULTRY SHOW

The Wapsie Valley Poultry Show was organized in Independence in 1887. The first officers elected were: W. H. Miller, president; Charles Blackburn,

Lamont, vice president; John M. Parker, secretary and treasurer; Charles H. Marshall, superintendent. The first meeting was held in King's Hall and was a financial success. The next five years was not so remunerative, and at the close of the sixth, there was a net deficit of \$115. Then a proposition was made to hold the annual meeting at Waterloo, coupled with the bonus, which was accepted. Luck was against the club and bad weather increased the shortage to \$175. The club, however, continued the policy of showing the following years at Waterloo, Dubuque, Cedar Rapids and Cedar Falls, in the order named, and the debt was finally all cleared up and with a clean slate it concluded to return to Independence in 1899. The meeting was held in the Phillips Block, on Main Street, and was a decided success as far as a showing of fowls was concerned, but owing to financial stringency, the club subsided after a vain attempt for several years to recuperate, and was supplanted by the Buchanan County organization, which has been in existence periodically, ever since.

#### THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE

A meeting of delegates from the various farmers' alliances of Buchanan County, met on Saturday afternoon, the 17th of January, 1891. Five of the seven organizations in the county were represented, and a county alliance was formed, with M. J. Smith as president; Ed. Gallup, of Fairbank, vice president; L. B. Flint, of Westburg, secretary; W. H. Carrier, of Buffalo, treasurer; C. H. Vargason, of Hazleton, county organizer; J. W. Knight, lecturer; and the executive committee was M. J. Smith, L. B. Flint, J. N. Muncy, J. W. Knight, and F. A. Weatherbee.

A meeting for the purpose of adopting a constitution and by-laws was held the last Saturday in January.

#### THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE

This splendid association began in 1894 and was the outgrowth of numerous farmers' clubs, granges, agricultural fairs, etc., and like all these its object was to further and advance the farmers' knowledge and interests, and that it is one of the greatest organizations that Buchanan County has ever had, cannot for a moment be questioned. Every year it improves and elicits greater attention and wider interest, not only among the farmers but the town people, to whose benefit it is perhaps as great an advantage. For a period of years it was customary to hold three sessions of the institute a year, one in December, another in February and another some time in the spring. In 189- the State Legislature passed a law to donate \$50 toward defraying the expenses, and with this financial aid an excellent program is assured, the State Agricultural School furnishing the best lecturers that are obtainable, and their services given gratis with only expenses guaranteed by the institute. Every year the institute is visited by these authorities who give expert advice and opinions on all farm topics and often are called upon to act as judges in the various contests which are now a special feature of the institute. In 1906 the custom of holding a winter fair in connection with the institute was inaugurated. Premiums were solicited from the merchants and

farmers as rewards for best farm products exhibited. A domestic department for women's exhibits with special prizes for best culinary exhibits, butter, etc., proves a most attractive and interesting feature of the fair. The women in the county take a most conspicuous part in the institute programs, and their papers and discussions prove one of the most attractive parts. A girls' department is another interesting feature. For the first few years the institute was held in the courthouse, later in King's Opera House in the Munson Building and since the high school was built, in that building.

The exhibits are displayed in the gymnasium, and the programs are given in the auditorium.

Often as many as sixty-five premiums are awarded and all of these valuable prizes. Every year the Buchanan County Farmers' Institute offer a trophy valued at \$20 to be won annually by the township showing the best corn exhibit. One of the most interesting things in connection with the institute is the boys' corn judging contest.

#### BUCHANAN COUNTY VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

Pursuant to previous notice, the soldiers who served in the Civil war present at the observance of Decoration Day at Independence in 1877, met at the courthouse immediately after the close of the public exercises for the purpose of organizing themselves into a permanent association. The meeting was well attended, harmonious and enthusiastic. Capt. W. T. Spencer, of Independence, was chosen president of the association and Lieut. H. G. Wolfe, of Jesup, secretary. The committees were appointed to perfect the organization and it was resolved to have one or more formal reunions each year, and this custom has been observed for thirty-six years regularly or until 1914 when no invitation was received by the association and the meeting was deferred until 1915, when any invitation will be accepted. They are always largely attended by the old veterans and the most enthusiastic meetings are enjoyed, sometimes as high as one hundred and fifty soldiers registered. The meetings are held at the different towns in the county and everything is done to make these occasions red letter days for the old veterans.

Tents are pitched, campfires are held, speeches, songs and stories reminiscent of soldier days furnish the most entertaining kind of programs.

For the past few years, the ranks of the "old boys in blue" have been thinning out and the average number to register now is about seventy.

#### E. C. LITTLE POST, G. A. R.

The E. C. Little Post, G. A. R., was organized on the 25th of August, 1882, by the following charter members: James A. Poor, H. W. Holman, J. L. Cramer, V. Cates, J. W. Foreman, William Uren, A. C. Simmons, W. S. King, James McBride, W. T. Spencer, W. H. Thrift, W. E. Parker, J. H. Blakeley, E. L. Currier and H. C. Markham.

H. W. Holman was the first commander and V. Cates vice commander.

As to who the other original officers were we are unable to learn and the records have been lost.

The meeting place was first in the old Firemen's Hall on the south side of Main Street, and from there they moved to the Ungerer Building, then to the Owls' Hall on Chatham Street, and finally to the Owls' Hall in the Soener-Bogert Building.

The post has had the honor of having one of the members, Comrade A. G. Beatty, appointed aid-de-camp under Commanders-in-Chief Gardner and Palmer, the present incumbent.

There are at this time but forty members of the post.

The present officers are: A. G. Beatty, commander; W. S. Wallace, Sr., vice commander; George H. Van Eman, Jr., vice commander; W. W. Burgess, officer of the day; Mel L. Griffith, quartermaster; George H. Bagley, chaplain; J. H. Mathew, adjutant; Jesse Wroten, sentinel.

Of the charter members but four are living, they being Comrades E. L. Currier, J. W. Foreman, W. E. Parker and J. L. Cramer. Each succeeding year the ranks of this organization grow fewer and more feeble, but with the constancy born of severe trials and long comradeship, these remaining veterans perform the duties and obligations they have assumed to the afflicted members. To join with the G. A. R. in the decoration services excites in our young people more patriotic inspiration than any other exercises in which they indulge.

#### THE BEWMADICS

The Bewmadics, an exclusive secret organization of Independence, was limited in charter members to the number of letters composing the name, was conceived of ambition, nurtured by desire, killed by neglect, and burned by charity, all of which occurred in the years 1894 and '95.

The original members were Dr. M. R. Brierly, C. L. Everett, A. H. Wallace, W. F. Miller, H. A. Allen, C. A. Durno, C. E. Biff, H. C. Chappell and M. A. Smith.

One initiation occurred, transpired, or happened, as the case might have been, and Dr. H. H. Hunt was the victim.

They worshiped at the Shrine of an August Father and their official conferences were controlled by a G. W. G. and L. H. S. H. A. Allen graced the former office and M. A. Smith the latter. Their place of consultations was the land of Cockaine in the office of the clerk of the district court, and those attending were compelled to wear the Gyges ring, banish Lares and Penates, proceeding with the occult mysteries of the order.

Those who survived the ordeal of those mysterious meetings look back upon them with a profound sense of having wandered near the land of perfect enlightenment and true wisdom, with the possible exception of the one son of the order who entered by way of initiation.

## CHAPTER XXI

### CONVENTIONS

#### FRATERNAL—SOCIAL—RELIGIOUS—PROFESSIONAL

The Grand Chapter and Grand Council of Iowa (Masonic), met in Independence in August, 1860. Among the officers elected were Edward Brewer, D. G. H. P. of the Grand Chapter and J. B. Thomas, G. C. G. of the Grand Council.

During the same month the Grand Lodge of I. O. G. T. met at Independence. Among the officers elected were Miss S. Ida Shurtliff, G. W. D. M., and Rev. H. W. Glynn, G. W. C., both of Buchanan County.

On February 6, 1877, the fifth annual session of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, of the A. O. U. W., convened at the Odd Fellows Hall. The grand master and most of the grand officers of the state were present, and a large crowd was in attendance and a very fine meeting was enjoyed. A fine reception was tendered the officers and members at the opera house by the citizens and proved to be a thoroughly successful and enjoyable affair. A fine program composed of music and eloquent speeches was the entertainment for the evening.

A Peace Officers' Convention was held in Independence in July, 1880, and an organization formed. It was attended by sheriffs, marshals and constables from Illinois and Iowa. The principal business transacted by the convention was the perfecting of a permanent organization whereby the work of peace officers might be done with more celerity and certainty by being reduced to a cooperative system.

On the 19th and 20th of December, 1895, the Twenty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment for the second time held its reunion at Independence. Extensive preparations were made to give the visitors a royal welcome; the dwellings and business houses were gaily decorated with the national emblem, and the resident members of the regiment put forth every effort to have this a successful and enjoyable occasion. Headquarters were located at the Munson Building. The opening meeting was held at the Gedney Opera House. Mayor Howard opened the program with an address of welcome. The principal address was given by Judge C. T. Granger, of the Iowa Supreme Court. Short talks were made by Hon. W. G. Donnan, Colonel Lake, Captain Holman, James A. Poor, H. C. Hemenway and W. N. Boynton, several letters from absent members were read and the programs were interspersed with music and Rev. William Hunter gave two recitations. The important matter of having the honored dead of the regiment recognized on the Soldiers' Monument then being erected by the state was discussed and a motion prevailed to adopt the same,

resolutions being adopted by the Thirty-second Iowa Regiment, with reference to the matter, and presented at the next Legislature for action. Eighty-seven members of the Twenty-seventh Iowa were present and thirty-one of other regiments participated in the reunion. They were gathered from all over the state.

A reunion of Company H, formerly of this city, was held at Captain Thrift's quarters at the state encampment, in August, 1896. Captain Thrift, inspector of small arms practice, was formerly captain of this company, which was in existence in the '70s. About half of the members were present. He had been instrumental in making it one of the crack teams in the state. The reunion was devoted to social converse and relation of Company H's history.

From the 15th to the 22d of August, 1896, eleven companies of the First Regiment were encamped at Camp Jordan, situated just west of Rush Park race course, on the site of the old half-mile track. Nearly two hundred white tents (property of the state) furnished shelter and comfort to about five hundred of the Iowa National Guard.

Such an encampment cost the State of Iowa at that time about eight thousand dollars, a large part of which was expended among the merchants and people of the town, not to mention the pocket money disbursed by the individual soldiers on their own account, and Independence was indeed fortunate to secure it, especially when it is considered that Company E, the Independence company, had been in existence only about two months.

All of the regimental officers, the Fourth and First Regiment Bands and several United States Army officers were present and the families of some of the regiment officers.

The usual military program was carried out in full, with Governor's Day, a review of all the troops and a sham battle. Captain Allen was signally honored on this occasion by being placed in charge of a battalion. Camp Jordan being so accessible to town, crowds of people invested the camp grounds at all hours.

Company E, although of such recent organization, ranked third in the competition rifle practice.

Camp Jordan was named in honor of Lieut. George C. Jordan, First Lieutenant of the Independence Guards, Company E, Fifth Regiment Iowa Volunteers, which company was raised at Independence and mustered into service at Burlington, July 15, 1861, under the command of Capt. D. S. Lee, and did heroic service in 1862 in Pope's Brigade, then investing Missouri. The siege, fatigue and exposure, acting upon a constitution already enfeebled by disease, prostrated this well beloved Jordan.

The annual meeting of the Upper Iowa Conference of the M. E. Church met at Independence, October 7, 1896, for a five days' session. This was the first time this organization had met here for twenty-seven years. Several noted persons were in attendance.

The conference sessions were held in the auditorium of the Methodist Church and included the usual business and some very fine addresses. Among the prominent speakers were Bishop Fitzgerald and Doctor Mason, the colored orator. Over fifty young men submitted to theological examinations conducted by the conference.

The Northeastern Iowa Teachers' Association met in Independence, October 19th to 21st, inclusive, in 1899. This brought together a large body of educators of various grades of service from the country school up to men of national reputation and an excellent and interesting meeting was held. This was the sixth annual meeting of the association and there are four such associations in the state, but the Northeastern is acknowledged to be the best. Many prominent speakers were present and gave famous lectures, among them, Dr. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, of Chicago; Hon. Henry Sabin, dean of Iowa educators; Congressman Robert G. Cousins; Prof. H. H. Seerly, president of Iowa State Normal; Prof. R. C. Barrett, state superintendent; Prof. S. Y. Gillum, of Milwaukee; and several other prominent professors.

Fully a thousand teachers were in the city. At this meeting, J. L. Buechele, superintendent of the Independence schools, was elected secretary. Probably never at one time was a more distinguished and scholarly body of prominent men ever collected in our city. Almost every school in the state was represented and the addresses were the paramount of educational and literary attainment.

Much of the credit for this exceptionally fine meeting was due to County Superintendent E. C. Lillie.

On November 14, 1899, the Austin Flint Medical Society met in Independence. This is an organization which was founded in 1879 or '80 and is one of the strongest in the Northwest. It covers all of northeastern Iowa and its members number many of the prominent men in medical science. Three meetings are held each year.

This being an unfavorable season for physicians to leave their practice, the attendance was small. Doctor Hill and Doctor Moody formed the local committee on arrangements and received grateful commendation from their guests for the entertainment afforded. The day proved too short to carry out the program of interesting events.

The morning session was held in the Gedney parlor. Dr. A. R. Bracket, of Charles City, presided. Addresses of welcome were given by Mayor Miller on behalf of the city and G. B. Thompson on behalf of the Buchanan County Medical Society.

The program consisted of a visit to the hospital in the afternoon, where a continuation of the morning's discussions took place and an excellent pathological exhibit, under the supervision of Doctor Moody, proved an interesting feature. The evening program comprised a concert by the hospital orchestra, followed by a dance. Thirty-one doctors were in attendance, some of them being accompanied by their wives.

In May, 1902, the Baptist Young People of Northeastern Iowa held a three days' "rally" in Independence. Nearly one hundred delegates were present and an excellent program carried out. Many prominent speakers were in attendance and delivered fine lectures, among them Rev. William L. Ferguson, a returned missionary from India. There were representatives from all over the state and a splendid and enthusiastic meeting was enjoyed.

The first meeting of the Federated Women's Clubs of the Third District of Iowa, met at Independence, November 20, 1902. This was a big occasion in clubdom. Delegates from all the towns in the district, and representing most

of the active clubs, were present, and gave interesting reports of their development and achievements. Many notable women were present and excellent papers given. One of the fine things on the program was a paper on "Libraries," given by Miss Harriet A. Wood, librarian of the State University.

Miss Marie Thompson, of Independence, as district chairman, had charge of this very successful meeting.

Again in November, 1907, the district meeting met at Independence. Mrs. Nash, president of the State Federation, was present. Miss Hancock, of Dubuque, was chairman of the meeting. A large representative body of women were present, among them some very notable ones. An excellent program throughout was enjoyed, and some especially fine features were included, among them an address by Professor Shambaugh, of the State University.

The Woodmen of the World met in Independence for a three days' convention, in August, 1903. For three days the keys of the city were given to their keeping and a full purse was presented them for their expenditure, public streets were converted into a drilling and playground and the policemen's spy glass was removed and they were given free vent to their inclinations.

All sorts of contests were features of their program. About three hundred men, besides their wives and children were guests of the occasion. The convention was properly confined to the lodges of central Iowa, although teams from other sections were present to compete in the contest opened to the world.

Street exhibitions of the work in sword drilling were given by the different competing teams. The Rowley Cornet Band furnished music for the entire program.

The largest delegation to come from a distance was from the Seymour Camp, Omaha, which was represented by fifty-four members. Woodlawn Camp at Sioux City, sent forty-two members and Hawkeye Camp, Waterloo, 102 delegates.

The local camp, Hazlewood, had sixty members enrolled at that time. Programs of music and speeches were given at the East Side Park on Wednesday morning. Mayor Sutkamp gave the address of welcome, which was responded to by F. L. Eikelburg, of Waterloo.

Degree work was conducted at the armory, Wednesday evening, and Thursday morning occurred the regular business meeting of the convention, at which M. A. Dougherty, of Independence, was elected president.

Liberal money prizes were offered for all of the contests. The drilling contest on Thursday afternoon closed a very pleasant and entertaining program.

On April 22, 1904, the Mystic Shriners of El Kahir Temple met at Independence for their regular ceremonial session. Sixteen candidates were inducted into the mysteries of the order. About one hundred and fifty guests were enrolled—delegations from Waterloo, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, and Oelwein, besides many from other places more distant. The meetings were held at the armory and the Gedney was headquarters for entertainment. A banquet was the closing festivity. Nobles J. B. Steinmetz and J. S. Bassett had charge of the entertainment.

In April, 1913, the Northeastern Teachers' Association met in Independence for a two days' session. This meeting was much sought and the credit for securing it is largely due to Professor Foster and Superintendent Lockwood. Be-



tween seven and eight hundred teachers were in attendance and a splendid program throughout was enjoyed. On one of the evenings a public reception was held at the new high school. Several prominent clubs in the town had fitted up rooms with attractive decorations and flowers in their club colors and here welcomed the guests, where was served light refreshments and a souvenir was presented to each guest, which was in the form of a card on which was a picture of the high school and tied in the club colors.

The evening entertainment consisted of a musical and literary program furnished by the artists of the town, and a monologue of "Bachelor's Reverie," closed with a gramophone concert, proved highly entertaining. The day sessions were held in the Gedney Opera House and some of the most noted professors and educators in the country addressed the meetings.



## CHAPTER XXII

### PUBLIC EVENTS

CELEBRATIONS—EXHIBITIONS—CARNIVALS—VISITS OF NOTABLE MEN—CHAUTAUQUAS

#### THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Fourth of July, 1876, was observed in Independence in a most appropriate way. Besides the usual and numerous Fourth of July attractions, one that attracted particular attention and was unique in every feature was a representation in miniature, upon the placid waters of the mill pond, of the memorable duel in Chesapeake Bay, between the first Monitor and the Merrimac. Considerable time and expense, about \$300, was expended in preparations for the event. A Monitor was built, Burr's paddle wheel pleasure boat was fitted up to play the part of the rebel army and the other arrangements were perfect in detail.

At the appointed hour, the Merrimac steamed out from behind the head of the island and bore down upon a number of boats rigged as ships, with paper sails, etc., placed at convenient intervals, poured broadsides into them, with bombs rammed them and finally set them on fire. She then engaged the "shore batteries" and a vigorous exchange of fireworks ensued. By this time she had reached the foot of the island when she met her fate in the shape of a Monitor which was the exciting feature of the whole program. The battle raged with savage fury. The Merrimac retreated and grounded and the "cheese box" in the meantime poured hot shot into her until finally her magazine was reached and she blew up into several small pieces and victory crowned the Union champion. An immense crowd was in Independence to witness this and all the other fine attractions prepared for the event.

Everything was up to the highest expectations, but the fireworks and naval engagement, which was partially owing to a fearful storm threatening.

A \$10 prize was awarded the township making the best display in the parade, and Westberg was awarded it. They had a float beautifully decorated with flags and mottoes and bearing thirty-eight young ladies representing the states.

This was followed by thirty or forty horsemen and after them 110 teams from the same township. Such an exhibition would be impossible to accomplish nowadays.

#### BENEFIT SALE OF SEATS

When King's Opera House was opened in October, 1876, two evening performances were given by the Payson English Opera Company. The first night,

on October 3d, was "Martha," by Flotow, and of "The Love Test," by Verdi, on the second evening, October 4th. The general verdict of opinion was that the performances were splendid. The people were very enthusiastic over the city's new acquisition of a fine opera house and the possibilities of fine attractions. No town in Iowa possessed a more elegant or spacious public hall. This was the invariable testimony of everyone. It was furnished in complete and elegant style and a feeling of gratitude to Mr. King for his enterprise in building and equipping this much-needed convenience prompted the citizens to make the opening performances a testimonial of their appreciation.

For these performances a benefit sale of seats was held. Seats sold for 75 cents, reserved seats \$1—a big price in those days—and \$325 worth the first night and \$100 the second night. The expenses were quite heavy, the Payson troupe receiving \$250, so Mr. King was left but \$127 as a benefit. It was hoped that it would be a handsome sum, but times were hard and money scarce.

On Monday evening, August 22, 1892, a complimentary benefit to Mr. C. W. Williams was held at the new opera house, at which the seats for the inaugural performance were sold at auction. Mr. William Toman was president of the occasion, and Mr. Randall Jacobs acted as auctioneer. The opera house was not completed, but was nearly so. On the first floor only a portion of the seats were set, and the parquet formed a pit similar to that of the Board of Trade, and thronged with a crowd of equally anxious bidders.

The balcony seats were all in position, and that part of the house was filled with ladies, and although the building was only partially lighted, those who for the first time saw the beautiful interior were astonished and delighted; it was so far beyond their expectation.

The bidding from the start was lively and interesting, and continued unabated until all the choice seats were disposed of.

The two choice boxes sold for \$100 apiece, and the others at \$60 and \$65 apiece, and the loggias for \$50 and \$35. Then the sale of the regular seats commenced and these brought all the way from \$5 to \$30, and the entire sales netted \$3,000. Two hundred and thirty-one were sold that night and 268 later at \$5 for first floor and balcony, and \$1 for gallery.

Another expression of appreciation for Mr. Williams was when the citizens in 1890 took up a subscription and bought the wonderful Allerton, a magnificent blanket, made of blue felt, lined with white satin and trimmed with gold fringe, and the owner a diamond-studded horseshoe watch charm.

#### THE ART LOAN EXHIBITION

An art loan exhibition, under the auspices of the ladies of the Presbyterian and Episcopal churches, commencing on April 21, 1880, was held in Independence for a week. A large collection of rare paintings and engravings, curiosities, Indian relics, ceramics and pottery, laces and textile fabrics, brie-a-brac and household art jewelry, musical instruments, clocks and watches, optical and electrical instruments, minerals and fossils, books and manuscripts, Chinese and Japanese goods, majolica ware, etc.

Articles both curious and rare were solicited.

Dr. G. H. Hill acted as president; Mr. C. D. Jones, W. G. Donnan, Mrs. Richard Campbell, Mrs. J. Post were vice presidents; Mrs. W. Kenyon, treasurer;

Miss Fannie Clarke, assistant treasurer; Miss S. E. Homans, secretary; Miss I. M. Wells, corresponding secretary; Hon. W. G. Donnan, G. Josselyn, L. V. Tabor, S. Newman, E. Leach, J. B. Jones, finance committee, were the long list of officers and fourteen different committees comprising the entire membership of the two churches (we should judge), the largest of which was the lunch committee.

The exhibition took place at the opera house, and as advertised, arranged artistically and advantageously, formed an exhibition such as will probably not be seen in this city again in years, and such was the case because not until 1899 was an exhibition of the kind again attempted. Entertainments prepared by home talent were given each evening. Doctor Hill gave a sciopticon exhibition, and Judge S. J. W. Tabor gave a lecture on old books and manuscripts, and a rendition of Brougham's dramatization of "David Copperfield" was given by the Dramatic Club. Charles Ransier was president. Two farces, one by the young ladies and another by young gentlemen, were given, and the children gave an entertainment, and on the remaining evenings pleasing programs were presented.

Tickets for the season were sold at \$1 and were not transferable; single admissions were 25 cents.

This was a grand success in every particular and was continued longer than anticipated. The net proceeds of the season was about \$400. We believe that these are historical events in the life of a town and should demand some space.

#### PRESIDENT M'KINLEY VISITS INDEPENDENCE

Independence welcomed President McKinley and his cabinet on Monday morning, the 16th of October, 1899. The visit and the welcome were a great success. Even though there was every indication of complete failure, for in the morning there was a cold rain and chilly north wind, nothing could dampen the enthusiasm of the people for their Chief Magistrate, and before 8 o'clock it was evident that everybody within reaching distance would be here.

The country roads were lined with teams and the streets leading toward the Central Depot were crowded with pedestrians. The rain ceased in ample time and people forgot about the weather.

The arrangements were perfect, everything moved with clock-like precision and the presidential party were enthusiastic over the administration. One member of the cabinet stated that it was the best managed and most successful they had seen on the tour, that was a series of ovations. The decorations were simple but tasteful, made entirely of bunting and shields of red, white and blue.

The stand was erected in the vacant space south of the depot. All of the iron columns of the passenger platform were beautifully draped by the company and added much to the attractiveness of the scene.

All the school children of the public schools, numbering over a thousand, were in line, each carrying an American flag. The train was due at 8:45 A. M., and was but ten minutes late when it came puffing in drawn by two big engines. It was made up of seven Pullmans and carried many distinguished guests besides the President and his cabinet. There were few preliminaries. The people

wanted to see McKinley and he wanted to see the people. Walking from the train to the stand, Mr. McKinley was greeted on behalf of the representatives by ex-Congressman Donnan with a few well-chosen words, to which the President responded in a happy and appropriate manner, after which he gave a short address which was listened to with the closest attention and the pertinent points rapturously applauded.

Mrs. McKinley was a member of the party, but through ill health and fatigue was unable to be presented. Miss Barber, a niece of the President, also accompanied the party.

The special train occupied by the McKinleys was called the "Campaign," and was like the rest of the cars, a palace on wheels. All the cars had a special name and were fitted to the special needs of the party.

Two letters, one from Capt. J. F. Merry, president of the Illinois Central, and ex-Republican Chairman C. T. Hancock of Dubuque, commending the Independence people in a most flattering way on their magnificent demonstration afforded the President, were received and highly appreciated by the citizens. Independence had again demonstrated her ability to do things, even to entertaining a President in correct and proper style.

The crowd was estimated all the way from five to fifteen thousand, so no definite figures are available, but anyway the crowd was immense.

#### ROOSEVELT VISITS INDEPENDENCE

On June 2, 1903, Independence entertained a most notable visitor. President Theodore Roosevelt, on his return from an extended western trip, visited Independence and gave us about three minutes of his valuable time. A fine stand had been erected and elaborately decorated to receive the honored guest, but scarcity of time forbade his even deigning to step foot on it, so the lumber was sold for ordinary purposes and not in "souvenir" splinters, as anticipated.

The President talked from the back end of his private coach to a wildly enthusiastic crowd, who had assembled "to hail the conquering hero." The school children had all been assembled and with waving flags and happy, ringing voices, were a conspicuous part of the "welcoming horde." After a short speech in his usual characteristic vigorous and explosive manner, and with his usual genial and "far-reaching" smile and an assurance that he was "deighted to have met us," he journeyed on his way, leaving an even more worshipful crowd of admirers than had welcomed him.

#### FIRST HORSE SHOW

The First Annual Horse Show given by the Oakwood Association was held on the 23d of September, 1902, and was a most brilliant success. There was a large crowd in attendance, and the beautiful flower decorated vehicles elicited the greatest enthusiasm and admiration.

Every class had entries, but by far the greatest number was in the decorated vehicle class.

Many of the prominent lodges and social organizations, and many individuals, had entries in this class.



PRESIDENT MCKINLEY AT INDEPENDENCE





Weeks had been spent in making paper flowers for the carriages and some were decorated in the natural flowers.

The greatest interest was attached to the awarding of prizes, the competition was so close.

This affair proved such a social and financial success that it was repeated in 1903 on a still greater scale.

#### THE 1903 HORSE SHOW

The Second Annual Horse Show under the auspices of Oakwood Cemetery Association was a most complete and decided success, more than fulfilling the most sanguine hopes of the committee, and far surpassing the first effort of the previous year.

The weather man, having been previously consulted and cajoled, smiled auspiciously on the event; generously bestowing warmth and sunshine, withholding his tears for a more somber occasion. Rush Park Track was the scene of the festivities, and a multitude of eager spectators (fully 3,000) taxed to its utmost limit the capacity of the amphitheater and all available standing room was filled with carriages. The crowd grew expectant and intent and the old thrill and excitement of racing days seemed to possess them; as though the phantom of departed glory had again come to inspire them; and had the old-time favorites, Axtell and Allerton, come trotting down the quarter stretch, the spectators would not have been more surprised and delighted, nor would it have created greater enthusiasm than did the array of splendid vehicles drawn by magnificent horses all bedecked and beribboned and the occupants beautifully and harmoniously gowned, coming slowly in parade before the grand stand. This spectacle had never before and perhaps never again will be surpassed for beauty and interest in Independence.

Seventeen of the regular classes were filled. The association colors, red and white, were everywhere in evidence. Streamers and ribbons and gowns in combination of these colors were in abundance and produced a most brilliant effect.

Just in front of the amphitheater was arranged a row of boxes, nearly thirty in number, very prettily decorated with the association and national colors, and occupied by the people prominently connected with the project and the prominent society people. The ladies were all beautifully gowned for the occasion, which added materially to the beauty of the scene.

Perhaps the greatest interest centered in the decorated vehicles. A silver loving cup, valued at \$25, was to be awarded for the best and competition was open to all—individuals, clubs, or organizations. Eleven entries were made, and it was with great difficulty that the judges came to a decision and presented the beautiful cup to the Order of Eastern Star. This was a three-seated phaeton covered with white chrysanthemums, drawn by pure white horses with white harnesses. Everything was dazzling white, even to the powdered hair of the six matrons, members of the order, who rode in the rig. The red ribbon, second prize, was awarded to the P. E. O. carriage, which was beautifully decorated in the club colors, yellow and white. A span of prancing black steeds, and a colored coachman in full livery, were noticeable features of this vehicle, as was also the star of their order, made in yellow and white chrysanthemums.

adorning the back of their vehicle. The yellow ribbon, third prize, was awarded to Mrs. F. D. Rockwell's rig. This was one of the most elaborate and artistic displays of the entire exhibit. The nasturtium shades ranging from the palest yellow to burnt orange and a gorgeous red, were blended harmoniously in the decoration, and created a most beautiful effect.

The Excelsior Cinch Club carriage, decorated with big red poppies, the Rebekah carriage with a canopy top, bearing the three links and decorated in the colors of the order, yellow, red and blue; and the Conundrum Club vehicle done in purple and white, with purple question marks, surrounded by white poppies, adorning the back of the seat. The Hospital carriage, decorated in natural flowers and verdure; Dr. Shellito's trap, decorated with pink and white roses, and the Cemetery Association's carriage in red and white, the Ladies' Musical Society carriage in purple and yellow, and the Ladies' Relief vehicle, decorated with pink poppies, all were strong competitors for the prizes.

The decorated vehicles drawn by ponies were also the source of much interest. The carriage driven by Harold Heege, which won first prize, was beautifully done in white with a white canopy. The cart trimmed with red and white roses and driven by Judd Shellito, took second prize. The third prize was awarded to Misses Lucy Baekus and Verna Lyons, who rode in the cart, decorated in white. Other exhibits in this class were Miss Florence Jayne's cart in yellow and white, Miss Beatty's in magenta and black and Miss Clara Lynch in purple and white.

Many special novelties not billed to appear were introduced during the afternoon's program and added much to the entertainment of the spectators.

A gentleman in Mexican attire rode into the ring at full speed upon a mountain burro, an English dude appeared upon an English sporting cart, and a Japanese lady of quality, riding in a jinrikisha, drawn by two coolies, were special attractive features.

A grand parade of all horses and vehicles was the closing feature of the program. The Oakwood Challenge Cup, valued at \$25, was awarded to George Spangler's bay mare, Vivian Wright, in the speedway class.

The Oelwein Band furnished the music. The receipts of the horse show amounted to something over nine hundred dollars. The success of this achievement was largely due to the manager, Mr. A. G. Rigby, who for many weeks had planned and worked unceasingly in the interests of the cause and his originality and quick comprehension of details made him especially fitted to manage so large a proposition.

#### THE CARNIVAL OF 1891

The first week of February, 1891, the Methodist Church of Independence held what was called a merchants' carnival, or Mardi Gras, at King's Hall. Each business house was represented by artistically costumed ladies who advertised the various lines of trade in an entertaining and picturesque manner. There were fifty ladies who took part in the carnival, and for weeks they had been drilled under the direction of W. H. Skinner, who succeeded in making a grand success of the work.



FIRST PRIZE AT INDEPENDENCE HORSE SHOW



The designs of the costumes afforded an opportunity for originality, taste and ingenuity. Such a variety of costumes was never before seen in Independence. Even Solomon, in all his glory, was not arrayed like unto one of these. Aside from the beauty and novelty of the costumes, there was a series of beautiful fancy drills on the stage. Each person representing a business firm appeared before the audience and delivered a verse descriptive of the goods carried by the firm she represented.

With banners showing great resplendence  
 Proclaim we the firms of Independence,  
 With striking costumes, quaint and new,  
 We bring their various stocks to view;  
 Hoping that hence forth you ne'er will roam  
 When wishing for goods, but buy them at home.  
 For here all our merchants are honest and true,  
 Our prices the lowest, our goods all new.

The carnival proved a great success both as an entertainment and financial enterprise. The ladies of the M. E. Church cleared about two hundred and fifty dollars.

#### INDEPENDENCE MERCHANTS' CARNIVAL

In October, 1904, the Independence merchants gave a big indoor carnival. Complimentary tickets were given to customers buying a certain amount of goods. The entertainment was in the nature of a vaudeville show and continued both afternoon and evening for a week. Excursion rates on both railroads every day brought many people from surrounding towns. The giving out of tickets began on Saturday, October 22d, and many of the merchants reported the largest one-day's sales for the year. Fifty-two business houses were interested in the project and as a financial and pleasurable enterprise it was pronounced a decided success and the weekly sales proved to be very gratifying to the promoters.

The entertainment was a high-class variety program by metropolitan actors, including singers, instrumentalists, comedians, jugglers, acrobats, moving pictures, etc. Before each entertainment band concerts were held on the streets. The entertainments were given at the Gedney Opera House, a gallery ticket was given with every \$1 purchase of goods, a balcony ticket with each \$2 purchase and a parquet ticket with each \$3 purchase.

This was certainly a novel way of advertising, selling goods and entertaining your customers combined.

#### INDEPENDENCE STREET CARNIVAL

The saying that when Independence does anything she does it right was certainly exemplified in the following celebration which we can only briefly record.

Independence held a street carnival for three days from October 27th to the 29th which was an unqualified success. The weather of the second and

third days was decidedly against it, being cold and blustery, but nothing of that kind could abate the enthusiasm or keep away the crowds of people.

The first interest of the community centered in the selection of queen, which for days previous to the closing of the contest had kept the friends of the contestants actively engaged in their interests, and the excitement reached the highest pitch when the voting culminated, at 10 o'clock Friday night previous, in the choice of Miss Louise Till. She had received 904 votes. Her closest competitor was Miss Lake, with 803, and is sufficient indication of the toridity of the contest. When the final announcement was made, the enthusiasm knew no bounds. The Hospital Band attempted to put a quietus on the noise, but was drowned out by the horns, whistles and other instruments of torture that split the air.

Nearly every business house in Independence was represented by a booth, erected in front of their business places, displaying the articles carried by their establishment and the products of their manufacture, and all these booths showed great artistic ability and great diversity of ideas. The streets were profusely decorated with the carnival colors and festooned with hundreds of electric globes so that the scene at night was one of fascinating beauty and resembled nothing so much as fairyland with the fairies, elfins and goblins at play.

Of the many interesting features of the carnival, the one that attracted the greatest of attention and would probably live longest in the memory of the visitor was the museum and curio room. This was the most elaborate collection brought together in this city since 1879. The admission to the building was free and crowds thronged the Main and Chatham entrances. The exhibits which were classified and grouped together in booths were in the Phillip's Block, at the corner of Main and Chatham streets. A large and interesting display of Civil and Spanish American war relics were on exhibition and the foreign exhibits were particularly attractive and numerous and included articles from the South Sea Islands, Mexico, The Orient, Japan and China. The American Indian work was well represented. The Ceramic exhibition showed many and valuable potteries and chinias from all over the world, both old and new, some rare and valuable pieces over two hundred years old attracted the attention of China connoisseurs. The Art Department contained everything from the old paintings and engravings to the recent photographic art. Photographs from every clime and representing all classes of people were displayed. The wearing apparel from every age and people was a particularly interesting exhibit. A wedding gown and slippers of 200 years ago was the most ancient. Shawls, caps, old laces, and embroideries held the attention of the feminine eye. A fine exhibit of fans collected from all over the world, of all sizes, shapes, and colors, was one of the pleasing features. And the collection of rare and ancient books, papers and manuscripts, comprising treasures from the theological libraries to the school text books of our great grandfathers and the records of the beginnings of history in Buchanan County, the first dance and entertainment programs and first maps of the county and city were among the most valuable exhibits. An exceptionally fine exhibit of geological specimens and curios was also an interesting feature. To enumerate all of the fine things contained in this collection, or to even describe the artistic and natural



INDEPENDENCE IN 1904



INDEPENDENCE STREET CARNIVAL





arrangements of the different departments would require a volume. It was most inspiring to see what an elaborate, valuable and extensive exhibition could be collected here in our own city.

The program for this carnival included all sorts of contests and the usual carnival attractions—comedians, jugglers, acrobatic performers, bands, fiddlers and dancers. One of the great features was a circus parade under the management of King & Leytze. This parade was made up of the most ludicrous and clever imitations and burlesques.

The coronation of the Queen of Mirth and Beauty took place on Wednesday night at the coronation platform on which had been erected a throne beautifully fitted up for the occasion. The street was a blaze of light and the beautiful decorations, music and flowers made it a scene of fairyland enchantment. The crowd was in an ecstatically happy mood and everything passed off with clock-like precision. The coronation parade was made up of the usual heralds, bands, and flower girls, maids of honor, guards, and carriages with representatives of the nation. The beautiful coronation car, completely covered with white chrysanthemums drawn by three white horses, tandem, each led by a postilion in white, bearing the queen to be to the place of coronation. The coronation ceremony was beautiful and impressive and carefully carried out in every detail. At the close of the ceremony, the merchants' parade took place. This consisted of the coronation attendants and about twenty beautiful floats representing the different business firms. It finished the day's festivities.

A great amount of money was spent in making this display and excellent taste was exhibited. It was admittedly the finest parade ever seen in this part of Iowa.

The Friday's program was a repetition of the two previous days with some special features and several floats added to the parade.

That the street carnival was such a decided success was largely due to the untiring zeal and interest manifested in it by all of the business men and particularly to the efficient and energetic officers. President, A. T. O'Brien; secretary, A. G. Rigby, and the various committees of whom P. C. Heege, I. C. Plane, C. A. Raffauf, W. C. Littlejohn, D. S. Jones, J. M. Romig, Z. Stout, E. E. Hasner, and R. F. Stewart, were chairmen.

The income from all sources was \$1,389.75 and it was all burned up in that week of hilarity with the exception of \$4.90, enough to buy headache capsules for the officers and committees.

#### CHAUTAUQUAS

In 1907 the first Independence Chautauqua was held, on the Lincoln School Grounds. Over a thousand tickets were sold the first year and this insured it for the next year. Large and enthusiastic audiences have always attended which increase from year to year, and as the attendance increases, better attractions are presented. The first two years the programs covered but six days—in 1909 was increased to seven days. Some of the best talent on the American platform have visited the Independence Chautauqua.

A list of all these fine things would prove highly entertaining and interesting but would occupy too much space.

This week of the whole year is set apart by old and young as a season of profitable pleasure, which usually continues unabated through twenty-one performances.

In some of the other towns in the county similar summer chautauquas are held and winter lecture courses, which afford wonderful opportunities for educational and social development. This chautauqua and lecture course movement has brought the finest and best talent obtainable within reach of every one. The usual price for season tickets is \$1.50 for adults, and \$1 for children—which includes special entertainment and instruction for the children.

Nothing that has ever been conceived has had a more broadening and uplifting effect or reached so many people as the chautauqua.

#### FLOWER SHOWS

Under the auspices of the Civic Improvement League, two fine flower shows have been given, the first one in 1907 in the Munson Building. The hall was completely banked and bowered with vines and flowers. All the different clubs and societies and the different grades in the schools had flower booths, and many very beautiful and artistic designs were carried out. The booths were made in a friendly competition, prizes being awarded to the several different classes of exhibitors. Mr. Bland, the hospital florist, brought down a large part of the green house and greatly assisted in the arrangement and planning of the event. One of the features which attracted much attention was the competitive flower show porters which were entered. They were many and artistic and were afterwards sold at auction.

Another feature was the refreshment room which was like an enchanted bower in its wild and natural embellishments of flower and fern.

The next year, 1908, the flower show was given in the Company L Armory and in spite of the immensity of this place and its usual barnlike appearance it was made a marvel of loveliness. The same general ideas which had proven so successful the year before were carried out and many new features introduced. Some of these that proved particularly fascinating was the fish pond and a paper bazaar where every conceivable thing that could be made of paper was sold. Booths selling refreshments, candies, bouquets and fancy articles. These flower shows proved a very lucrative means to assist the Civic League and it was determined to have another the next year, but a long continued drought ruined all the flowers and foliage and a show was out of the question. Since then the organization has been so ably assisted by individuals and by the City Council that public benefits are not necessary.





St. James Episcopal Church

Public Library and Munson Industrial School

St. John's Catholic Church

Congregational Church

Independence High School

GROUP OF INDEPENDENCE BUILDINGS

## CHAPTER XXIII

### CHURCH HISTORY

THE FIRST SERVICE—THE CHURCHES OF INDEPENDENCE—CHURCH NOTES

#### PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The first church service held in Independence was on Thursday evening, July 31, A. D. 1856, in the Methodist Chapel, the Right Rev. Henry Washington Lee, D. D., LL. D., bishop of Iowa, officiating. Rev. Reuben H. Freeman (deacon), who had just been received from the diocese of New Jersey, and who resided near the town (and who was then, and he had been ever since, in infirm health), was present.

In regard to the first parochial organization, the Rev. Benjamin R. Gifford states as follows:

“I visited Independence in February, 1858, and held services at the Presbyterian house of worship on the evenings of the 17th, 18th and 19th. On February 19th there was a meeting of those interested at the office of Dr. Henry S. Chase. I presided, and after consultation it was decided to organize a parish, which was accordingly done, giving it the name of the Church of the Messiah. The following gentlemen were chosen as vestry men, viz.: Rev. Reuben Freeman (deacon), Mr. Oziar, J. D. Myers, H. S. Chase, R. W. Wright, Thomas Searcliff, Thomas W. Close, G. B. Thomas and William Scott. Messrs. Freeman and Chase were chosen wardens.”

The communicants registered at this date were the following, viz.: Rev. R. H. Freeman, Mrs. Freeman, Isaac S. Freeman, H. S. Chase, Mrs. Chase, Mrs. Harriet A. Woodruff, Miss Sarah E. Homans, Mr. Oziar and Dr. R. W. Wright, though it does not appear that Doctor Wright ever communed.

The Rev. Mr. Gifford made arrangements with the parish to hold monthly services, which were held during the greater part of that year and also of the year 1859. The services were held principally in the Masonic and Morse halls. Some few were held in the courthouse, Brown's Hall and the Presbyterian Church.

At the annual convention held May 26 and 27, 1858, the parish was admitted into union with the diocese.

On June 3, 1859, in the Presbyterian Church, Bishop Lee confirmed the following persons, who formed the first class of the parish, viz.: Mrs. Harvey Snow, Mrs. J. D. Myers, Mr. Smith and Mrs. Smith, all of whom became communicants. In February of that year a Sunday school was organized, with four teachers and twenty scholars. Its sessions were held when church services were held.

in the same building, but chiefly in the school room of Mrs. Woodruff, who is still living, and Miss Homans, who, by a kind providence, had been spared to labor therein up to November, 1897.

The Rev. Mr. Gifford resigned the parish about the end of the year 1859, and was succeeded by the Rev. Hale Townsend on the 10th of April, 1862. During his ministry, which closed May 30, 1864, the church building was erected, the cornerstone of which was laid on the 9th of September, 1863, by the rector, and an address delivered by Rev. J. H. C. Bonte, of Dubuque.

In consequence of some informality in the original parochial organization, a new parish was organized, the name being changed from the Church of the Messiah to St. James Church. The first service was held in the new church on Christmas day, 1863, and the church was consecrated by the Right Reverend Bishop Lee on the 8th of May, 1864. The original cost of St. James' was \$1,750.

The third rector, Rev. Jacob Rambo, was called in June, 1864; accepted and entered on his duties on the 1st of August ensuing. He gave two services a month for one year, at the end of which time he resigned.

The fourth rector, Rev. Henry Adams, appears to have held the rectorship for a brief period, and was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Hooker Eddy (deacon), who remained less than a year.

The sixth rector in succession, the Rev. W. W. Estabrooke, commenced his duties on the first day of May, 1868, and resigned July, 1869, and was succeeded by Rev. A. P. Crouch, whose incumbency was of short duration. After an extended vacancy Rev. Chester Smith Percival, as the eighth rector in succession, commenced his duties on the 12th of February, 1871, and continued two years.

The Rev. Thomas B. Kemp, the ninth rector, was called in June, 1873; accepted and entered upon his rectorship on the 1st of October ensuing.

In November of that year the church was enlarged by the addition of choir and vestry room, and in 1876 was rebuilt. The parish was out of debt, had a fine church building, an endowment fund of \$1,000, secured by Mr. Kemp, 137 communicants who claimed it as their home, and all, with twelve exceptions, residents of Buchanan County. The value of church and other property was about seven thousand dollars.

There were three missions under the charge of the rector, viz., one in Quasqueton, where the church had eleven communicants; one in Oelwein, Fayette County, seven communicants; one in Manchester, where the church had nine communicants.

The officers of St. James' at that time were the following: The Right Rev. William Stevens Perry, D. D., LL. D., bishop; Rev. T. B. Kemp, dean of the Northern Convocational District, and rector; Mr. Seth Newman and Mr. C. D. Jones, lay readers; Thomas Cochlan, Sr., and C. D. Jones, Jr., wardens; George Josseyn, treasurer; G. P. Hopkins, G. S. Woodruff (secretary) and William R. Kenyon, vestry men; G. Woodruff, choir master; Mrs. H. A. Woodruff, organist.

The improvements made during the rectorate of Rev. Mr. Kemp consisted of the addition of choir and vestry room and tower containing the bell, and brick veneering of the entire structure, the total cost being over two thousand dollars. As is usual in such cases, much credit for this work was due to the

organization then known as the Ladies' Aid Society, and another called the Busy Bees. In 1879 the Sunday school presented to the parish a white marble font for baptisms and also the large chandelier which hangs in the center of the church.

Reverend Mr. Kemp gave up his charge in November, 1885, and was succeeded in June, 1886, by the Rev. John W. Birchmore of Muncie, Indiana. Mr. Birchmore resigned July 1, 1888, and the parish was served by Rev. Frederick Wm. Wey from March, 1889, to February, 1890. During this time improvements were made amounting to about one thousand dollars, consisting principally of the present pipe organ. In December, 1890, the Rev. Chas. B. Mee entered upon his duties as rector. In 1891 the parish secured at a nominal rental the use of the residence adjoining the church on the south for a rectory, the purchase of the property having been made as an investment of funds left by Mrs. Clara M. B. Snow to establish at some time a school for young ladies. In the following year the Parish Guild purchased and presented to the parish a building to be used as Guild Hall and the same was used for suppers, guild meetings, and week-day Lenten services for a number of years. Reverend Mr. Mee resigned in 1896 and was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. O. J. Scovell in March, 1897. Mr. Scovell organized a boy choir of from ten to twenty-five members, which aided greatly in the rendering of the services. Choir stalls of hard wood were added and a choir room fitted up in the basement, and a sufficient supply of vestments was provided by the Parish Guild and the Woman's Auxiliary. Mr. Scovell resigned in March, 1900, being forced to abandon the ministry by reason of ill health.

The parish remained vacant eight months, during which time the services were kept up by the resident lay-reader, Mr. C. D. Jones, and neighboring clergymen. Rev. Chas. J. Shutt entered upon his duties as rector on the twenty-first Sunday after Trinity, November 4, 1900. Mr. Shutt continued in charge of St. James' for nine years, during which time he baptized sixty persons, presented fifty-three to the bishop for confirmation, officiated at twenty-two marriages and thirty-six funerals. In 1901 and 1902 the arch of the chancel was remodeled to the more churchly gothic style and the chancel improved by a handsome new altar and altar rail. New hardwood pews were also installed, the money being raised by voluntary subscription. Arrangements were also perfected with the trustees of the Clara M. B. Snow school fund, by which the vestry now has at its disposal a full annual scholarship in St. Katharine's School at Davenport, one of the finest girls' schools in the West. This scholarship is available to any young lady residing within the bounds of St. James' parish.

Mr. Shutt was married in May, 1906, to Miss Edna M. Poor, one of the most estimable and active church workers. In November, 1909, Mr. Shutt accepted a call to larger service in St. Luke's Church, Des Moines, his resignation being regretfully accepted by the vestry of St. James.

In December, 1909, Rev. Henry L. A. Fiek of Eagle Grove, Iowa, was sent by the bishop as priest-in-charge and in March of the following year was called to be the rector. Mr. Fiek served the parish faithfully and successfully for 4½ years, during which time all the obligations of the church for diocesan and general missions were fully met, and a nucleus established for a parish house

fund. The sudden and untimely death of Mr. Fick is still fresh in the memory of our citizens. The funeral was held from the church on Tuesday, June 30, 1914, several of the clergy from surrounding towns being in attendance, and the music being rendered by the vested choir. The burial was in Evergreen Cemetery, Long Island.

Lay services have been maintained with some degree of regularity from that date until the present, November 14th, with an occasional supply by nearby clergy, and it is hoped before these lines are in print that St. James' parish may have secured the services of a new rector under whom the past record for good works may be maintained and carried forward to still greater things. The present membership consists of about eighty-five active communicants; the contributions for missions and work outside the parish amount to about three hundred dollars a year, besides some thirty to forty dollars by the Sunday school and a like amount by the Woman's Auxiliary.

The memorials in the church, in addition to a number of stained glass windows, are a sermon desk by Mr. Frank Megow in memory of his wife, Jennie Coghlan Megow; a lecturn by Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Jones, in memory of her mother, Harriet A. Woodruff; a brass altar book-rest by the McKees in memory of their mother, Mrs. Charlotte Wheeler; a hymn board in memory of George Burk, son of John and Sophie Burk; a lecturn Bible by Caroline B. Woodruff in memory of her father and mother; a large organist's hymnal in memory of Lillian Esther Fuller; and an altar prayer book in memory of John Burk, Sr.

The present vestrymen are Messrs. C. D. Jones and Thos. Scarelliff. Wardens: Messrs. Frank Megow, E. H. Sweet, C. E. Purdy, Geo. H. McKee, J. W. Kuhrke, E. Morphy, John G. Burk, and Robt. R. Plane. The only survivor of the original parish organization is Miss S. E. Homans, who at eighty-five is still a regular attendant.

The St. James Episcopal Church of Independence has always maintained several active church societies, among them a strong church auxiliary, which was started by Miss Homans and Mrs. Woodruff, many, many years ago.

This society has done a great deal of philanthropic and missionary work for their established missions and schools and for the poor in the congregation.

During the Lenten season they hold meetings once a week to sew for these several different interests and once a year hold a "Rummage Sale" for three or four days, from which they realize a goodly sum for these purposes. The Sunday school is one of the splendid auxiliaries of the church and that it is a live, active organization is attested by the large enrollment and the interest manifested.

#### METHODIST CHURCH

There were but a few families in and about the present site of Independence when in 1850 Rev. Harvey Taylor, then traveling the Anamosa circuit, extended his mission into this hitherto unexplored region, annexing it to the Methodist field. He immediately formed a class at the old log schoolhouse, known as the Boone School—situated one and one-half miles east of Independence near the present location of the county poor farm. This class consisted of seven persons, as follows: Henry Sparling and his wife, Lavina Luekey Sparling, two of



their children, Edwin and Emily, Isaac Sufficool, William Logan, and Thomas McKenna. Henry Sparling was chosen leader of the class, a position held by him, with the exception of one year only, to the day of his death, twenty-nine years later. After a while Thomas McKenna withdrew, Isaac Sufficool removed to Otter Creek a few miles north of Independence and there united with the Greeley Grove circuit. William Logan, by reason of his radical Abolition views, transferred his membership to the Wesleyan Church at Quasqueton. But perhaps the most honored name in the early history of the church is that of the Sparling family. "Father Sparling," as he was called, for many years had few if any equals in untiring zeal and devotion and long continued efforts to promote the interests, both spiritual and temporal, of the church of his choice. From the class over which he presided he lived to see a society of nearly three hundred members.

In the spring of 1851, several additions were made to the class from conversions and immigration, among them Norman A. Bassett, who was chosen superintendent of a Sunday school organized at the Boone Schoolhouse and assistant leader of the class.

During the winter of 1851 and '52, meetings were held at Independence, first in a storeroom owned by C. W. Cummings on the north side of Main Street, then in a small building erected by William Brazleton, south of where the Commercial Bank is now located and about where the J. W. Lamb Implement House now stands (this building was also used as a schoolhouse) and then, meetings were held in N. A. Bassett's new residence on the west side of the river on River Street, long owned and occupied by Lyman J. Curtis, Esquire, and next we find them listening to the earnest practical preaching of Rev. William M. Brown in the little brick schoolhouse where now stands the county jail.

In 1855, the Rev. L. S. Asbaugh was preacher in charge. But previous to this a special meeting was called in March, 1852, for the purpose of electing a board of trustees. The meeting was held at the residence of Rev. Orin Lewis, a local preacher, living near the present residence of Mrs. S. S. Clarke, who, not long afterwards, removed to Quasqueton, where he lived for many years.

Rev. Harvey Taylor presided at the meeting which resulted in the choice of Henry Sparling, Orin Lewis, Isaac Sufficool, George Whaite, William Logan, R. W. Wright, and N. A. Bassett, all members of the church. The first quarterly meeting was held in the barn of Dr. R. W. Wright, situated in the block south of the Courthouse Park, where the E. O. Craig residence now is located, affording evidence that a church edifice was fast becoming a necessity.

On the 13th day of April, following the organization of the board of trustees, they proceeded to "Resolve, to purchase a lot." The object was not stated, but the object is evident, for a few days later we find them receiving bids for building a church 22 by 30 feet. Only two bids were received, one for \$400 and the other, N. A. Bassett's, for \$300, was accepted by the board and the contract was at once entered into by which he was to erect, enclose, and lay the floor. Three years later, in April, 1855, \$12 was added for base and easings. Up to the time of signing the contract for the building, no site had been secured, though undoubtedly negotiations were pending, for on July 2, 1852, Ephraim Miller and wife in consideration of the sum of \$27.00, conveyed by warranty

deed, to the trustees of the M. E. Church of Independence, lot No. two (2), in block No. six (6), Stoughton & McClure's Addition.

In June, 1853, the church building was so far advanced that Hon. F. S. Wilson of Dubuque obtained permission to hold regular session of the District Court of Buchanan County under its roof. J. S. Woodward, a prominent lawyer of the early days, was admitted to the bar at this term of court.

The new church was formally dedicated in the fall of 1853. Rev. George B. Bowman, the founder of Cornell College at Mount Vernon, officiated on this occasion.

About this time another lot—one block south—was purchased for the sum of \$35.00 on which was erected a small dwelling which served as parsonage for ten years, when it was sold for \$400, the proceeds put at interest and afterwards absorbed in a new church.

In 1856, the Upper Iowa Conference was organized and at its first session appointed Rev. J. L. Kelley, minister for Independence. This proved to be an unfortunate selection for before the expiration of a year Reverend Kelley got into trouble with some of the local disturbers with his earnest preaching against intemperance and kindred vices. He was arraigned before a justice of the peace on some trumped up charge, which on investigation proved groundless, and he was discharged. Thwarted in their purpose, the mob gathered at the residence of W. A. Jones, where the pastor resided, and threatened him personal violence. Mr. W. A. Jones seized a shot gun and defied the impassioned mob, keeping them at bay until the minister was spirited away. He remained a member of this conference for many years, and lectured in Independence and gave some very interesting reminiscences of pioneer life.

Fortunately, under the disturbed condition of affairs, the Rev. David Poor of the Troy Conference became a resident of the village and consented to act as supply. His two sons and daughters also were active church workers. Through his effective preaching and genial personality the congregation was greatly enlarged and it soon became apparent that their present building was too small, for the overflowing congregation, so in 1858, under his supervision, an addition eighteen feet long was built on. In 1862, the board of trustees formally reported all church property free from debt, except to the amount of \$6.00 and this small debt was about to be liquidated. In 1864, articles of incorporation were adopted and the church became a legal institution.

Rev. S. C. Freer was the preacher in charge at the time a new parsonage was in contemplation and was instrumental in raising the subscription for it. The building was to cost not less than eight hundred dollars. A month later a motion to postpone building was carried unanimously and strange to say the subject was not again agitated for eighteen years. The question of a parsonage thus summarily disposed of, the more important one of a new church edifice occupied the sole attention and discussion of the board at almost every meeting. Finally at a meeting on July 3, 1865, the board resolved "to build a good church, speedily as possible." And to hunt for a suitable site on the north side of Main Street, but the committee appointed for that purpose reported in favor of retaining their present site. The report was accepted and adopted. But again in November another committee was appointed for the same purpose and with like results. It was finally decided

to remove the old church to the rear of their lot and build an \$8,000 edifice on that site. The plans were adopted and the contract let to Wells Clark to be completed in September, 1867. On the 26th of December, the time was extended a year, and at the end of that time nothing had been accomplished so the contract was, by mutual consent, annulled. By that time the Church Extension Society had induced them to change their entire plans and build a two-story brick church, the estimated cost to be \$9,000, actual cost \$17,000. It took several months to get a good financial start, and on the 28th of May, 1868, the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies. Both the work and financial aid dragged on and it was not until January 13, 1869, that the lower story was ready for occupancy. Dr. F. M. Eddy of Chicago was employed to dedicate the basement, for whose services on that occasion \$100 was paid. At these meetings \$6,756 was subscribed. With this encouragement the trustees determined to push the work forward so that the next Annual Conference already appointed for this place might find a completed church in which to hold its sessions. This was accomplished; the dedication taking place on the 19th of September, 1869. Rev. R. M. Hatfield, assisted by Rev. A. B. Kendig of Dubuque and others, officiated on this occasion. Three days after the dedication the conference met here and over three hundred visitors, among them many noted ministers, were entertained. Again subscriptions were taken and again the people responded to the amount of \$7,167, which added to previous subscriptions made a grand total of \$20,087, more than double the amount originally estimated as the cost of building. Three hundred and eleven names appeared on the subscription lists with amounts ranging from \$1 to near \$900 or an average of \$65 each; but some forty of these subscriptions were never received and the amount finally collected was \$17,050, over \$3,000 of a shrinkage. The Ladies Aid Society having been voluntarily released from their subscriptions of \$500. The new seats in the church were rented for the coming year at a public meeting held October 14, commencing 7 P. M., and the public were cordially invited to be present and subscribe. Rev. William Lease was pastor for three years, from 1868 till 1871. The vicissitudes through which this society passed were almost overwhelming with accumulating indebtedness, exorbitant rates of interest; then during the winter of 1872 and 1873 the ceiling of the new church began to give way and had to be replaced with an entirely new one; then in April, 1874, Rev. W. F. Paxton, the presiding elder of the district, proposed to visit his former home in Pennsylvania and Maryland for the purpose of soliciting donations or failing in that, to procure a loan at a low rate of interest. The trustees embraced the proposition as a drowning man clutches at a straw, and advanced \$100 toward his expenses. The mission proved an utter failure and instead of a reimbursed treasury it was instead depleted to the amount of \$100. Right after this, on May 25, 1874, occurred the "great fire" which swept nearly the entire business portion of Independence out of existence, involving losses aggregating a half million of dollars and left the community in neither condition or mood for paying church debts. Indeed some of the members declared that from a purely financial standpoint it would have been better had the church gone up in smoke with the burning city as in that case the insurance would have satisfied the mortgage, a consummation not visible

to their eyes, at least from any other direction. But the church was not consumed by fire nor had the elements exhausted their destructive forces. Just two weeks later a tornado swept over a portion of the city and lifted the beautiful spire which towered 128 feet above the blackened ruins about it and dashed it in fragments to the grounds, many of the windows were broken and the building otherwise damaged.

But, in spite of all these, and more difficulties of a purely personal nature, the church struggled on until under the efficient pastorate of Rev. Daniel Sheffer, the Herculean task of cancelling the mortgage of over four thousand dollars was accomplished on November 27, 1871. And even with this apparently simple legal transaction, there arose some difficulty in regard to the notes, whereby the church again was the loser.

Once free from debt, a few years were allowed to pass for recuperations, financially, when the question for a parsonage was again taken up and in 1881, during the pastorate of Rev. Julius A. Ward, a lot was purchased and the present parsonage was erected at a cost of \$1,900.

Rev. John W. Clinton followed Reverend Ward in 1883, and during his charge the interior of the church, which by this time presented a somewhat unsightly appearance, was entirely renovated and decorated. Next came Rev. Eugene May, in 1886, a well known and popular lecturer. Under his ministry the Westburg Church was built, the pulpit being supplied from this charge for some four or five years. Reverend May was followed by Rev. Nathaniel Pye, who remained three years and during his pastorate the church was again renovated, various improvements made, the walls and ceilings were newly decorated, the East Tower was rebuilt, also a new roof, carpets and electric lights were added (the Ladies' Aid Society contributing the inside improvements). The next year a fine pipe organ was installed at a total cost of \$2,200 for organ and loft. Everything was complete by the 25th of August and the noted musician, Clarence Eddy, was called from Chicago to give the dedicatory recitals which continued three successive evenings, for whose services and incidental expenses the sum of \$236 was paid and the enterprise left them still \$800 in debt on the organ. This occurred during the ministry of Rev. M. H. Smith, who took an active interest in the enterprise. He was succeeded in 1893 by Rev. W. W. Carleton, under whose efficient charge the membership was largely augmented. In May, 1895, Mr. Wallace Francis, not a member but a regular attendant at church services, died leaving a bequest of \$5,000 to the church, of which his wife had been a consistent member since their advent to this city in 1871. This sum he desired to be invested and the income only to be used for certain incidental expenses, mostly for the music. On October 6, 1896, the Upper Iowa Conference again convened at Indiana after an interval of twenty-seven years. This body was now comprised of nearly two hundred and fifty members. At this conference Reverend Carleton was promoted to the presiding eldership of the Cedar Rapids District.

Nothing in the way of improvement of special mention occurred after the installation of the pipe organ until, in 1897, the Epworth League asked the privilege of the trustees and were permitted to fix the lecture room.

In the fall of 1896, Rev. Thomas E. Taylor, by special request, was appointed to the Independence charge, being reappointed in 1897 and 1898. During his

term extensive improvements were accomplished, the old gallery at the front of the church was removed, new pews, floor carpets and wall decorations were put in, the amount of expense aggregating some one thousand seven hundred dollars, most of which was liberally subscribed by the members. Just at the culmination of all this, their esteemed pastor who had been an active and influential factor in bringing it about was assigned to another charge and great fears were entertained that a new pastor might not be able to meet the requirements of the church from a financial standpoint, but their fears proved groundless. Rev. W. C. McCurdy, the new minister, proved equal to the task set before him and through his earnest appeals a liberal sum, more than the amount required, was raised at the reopening on January 7, 1900, and the twentieth century being also the semi-centennial anniversary of the organization found the church out of debt and in a prosperous condition, in which it has continued ever since. In 1901, Rev. T. E. Taylor was returned to his former charge here and through the continued efforts of his congregation was retained for eleven years, when he retired and Rev. M. J. Locke was appointed to the place. He completed his term of three years and in the fall of 1914, by the unanimous request of his parishioners was reappointed to the place which he now occupies so acceptably.

The only material improvement which the organization has had since those of 1897 and 1898 was the remodeling of the parsonage in the summer of 1911, the result being a commodious, up-to-date dwelling.

The present membership of the church is about five hundred.

Several very prominent public lecturers have been numbered among the Methodist clergymen who have served in Independence. Rev. Eugene May and Rev. W. W. Carleton are perhaps the widest known.

The church has always maintained a good choir. The first musical instrument was a melodeon. This was replaced in 1865 by an organ presented by the church ladies. This did not long satisfy the demands of the congregation and in the church records of the year 1867 this resolution appeared: "Whereas, Mr. James A. Poor was requested by the board to lead the choir, therefore, resolved, that he be respectfully requested to increase the choir to not less than twelve singers." When the new church was about to be completed the necessity for an organ for the audience room became apparent and the committee appointed for that purpose invested in a \$400 Estey organ. The choir was transferred to and from the gallery in the front of the church two or three times, until the advent of the pipe organ.

As early as the fall of 1877 the church adopted the envelope system. By this change all seats were left virtually free. The envelope system is a plan whereby an amount specified by the contributors is paid each week, the amount put in an envelope and placed in the collection box.

The Sunday School has always been an important feature of the church's work, this auxiliary of the church organization being established soon after the original class in the spring of 1851, with N. A. Bassett as superintendent, but a detailed account of the work cannot be obtained. But as early as June, 1863, the school evinced a substantial backing from the fact that during that week \$35.92 had been collected by the children. The object of these regular weekly collections was not stated but undoubtedly for some special purpose,

either missionary or to increase the library, which was a prominent feature of the early days, though long since discarded. Six months prior to the date of that particular collection, 400 volumes were reported in the Sunday School Library. Probably the last effort to increase their library was in 1866, when by means of a collection in the public congregation and a strawberry festival over one hundred dollars was raised for this purpose.

The Methodist Episcopal Sunday School had grown correspondingly with the church and at present is an active cooperative branch of the church organization.

The Ladies' Aid Society, another of the church organization, was started probably in 1860 or 1861, the exact date not being obtainable from the fact that in the fire of 1874 all previous records were totally destroyed and the records for several succeeding years can not be found, so of necessity all the early history had to be gathered mostly from surviving members and records of other departments with incidental references to this society. To three women can be attributed the formation of this society. They were Mrs. W. A. Jones, Mrs. William Sampson (the minister's wife), and Mrs. A. J. Bowley.

Although this society was not organized for some ten years after the organization of the church, it must not be inferred that the women were not active in church affairs, for from the earliest records they exhibited a deep interest in all branches of church work.

During all the years of financial strain consequent upon the building and various improvements from time to time the Ladies' Aid Society proved a powerful auxiliary and their courage and zeal never abated. They have always been diligent and faithful to every church duty and every obligation assumed by them. Through their efforts a fine Estey organ was bought and placed in the church in 1869 or 1870. The money for this was raised by the society holding a fair and festival in the old Munson Hall, which netted them \$550. After all the church indebtedness was paid there was, of course, less incentive to hard work, but nevertheless there has always been numerous other calls upon their efforts and resources which demand the energetic and loyal support of this society.

The Ladies' Home Missionary Society connected with the church was organized by Mrs. Colonel Springer, of Anamosa, on July 23, 1883, with thirty-seven members and a corps of efficient officers. The organization, probably for lack of definite work, waned and finally entirely subsided for two years. On August 10, 1885, it was reorganized. But thirteen members or about one-third of the original number enlisted in this second effort and with an outlined program of work from that time to the present the society has increased in members and efficiency. In all these years they have accomplished much for missions, contributing money, clothing and food both in the local field and answering many outside calls.

The Epworth League, a young people's organization, connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church, was established in Independence in 1891 with a Mr. James Cook, as the first president. It was a successor to an organization known as the Methodist Alliance, which was organized many years previous. It has always been an active, growing organization and a vigorous auxiliary to the church, assisting both materially and spiritually in all its enterprises.

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The First Presbyterian Church of Independence was organized December 16, 1854, with sixteen charter members as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Albert Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Asa Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Neville, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Beckwith, Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, Mrs. Ann Hammond, Mrs. Mary Neville, Mr. Joshua Neville, Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson, Mrs. Sarah Clark. A few of these original members removed by letter to churches outside of Independence but now all have gone to the better world.

The beginnings of a church like almost every other enterprise are crucial and this church organization was no exception to the rule. Its founders were men and women of more than average ability and with a sincere devotion to their cause. Theirs was the formative force which determined the successful destiny which the Presbyterian Church has enjoyed. In December, 1854, Rev. Joshua Phelps, a Presbyterian minister in Dubuque, was invited to come out and organize a church of this denomination in Independence. The organization occurred in a small brick schoolhouse, long since removed, which was situated directly north of the present courthouse. At the time of organization, Mr. Samuel Wilson was chosen as elder, then in July following Mr. Albert Clarke was elected to that office. The first board of trustees were: Elsy Wilson, J. B. Thomas, A. B. Clarke, and Horatio Bryant. On July 18, 1855, a call was given to Thomas S. Carver who accepted but only remained a year and was never regularly installed. He was a very brilliant and scholarly man who came west to see the country but became thoroughly homesick for the East and its advantages and resigned.

On November 24, 1855, a weekly prayer meeting was established and was held for several winters in rotation at the homes of members.

In October, 1856, Rev. John M. Boggs began preaching for the church and a few months later a call was extended to him which he accepted.

Soon after organization, the trustees purchased lot 5, in block 4, Stoughton & McClure's Addition, the lot where the German Presbyterian Church is now located, and in the spring of 1857, a brick building was erected thereon at a cost of \$1,700 and was dedicated June 7, 1857: the pulpit and seats were donated by the Dubuque Presbyterian Church, and on July 27th Mr. Boggs was installed as pastor with a very impressive service; Dr. Phelps, of Dubuque, preached the sermon; Rev. McKane of Scotch Grove, gave the charge to the pastor and Rev. Merrit Harmon of Hopkinton, the charge to the people. Thus was commenced the first and longest pastorate of the church lasting between twelve and thirteen years. In January, 1858, William A. Morris was added to the eldership.

During these early years, and in fact always, the church has had no sudden and large but rather a quiet, steady and helpful growth. After the war there was intense activity in all lines of business, the city was rapidly growing and the church membership had increased to such proportions that their present accommodations were entirely inadequate. When the first church was built, all or nearly all of the land lying north of it to Main Street and west clear to the river was unoccupied and practically all of it was used as a

street, and apparently no one had ever thought that their path to church would become obstructed, but eventually this land which in reality was private property, filled in the entire space and people coming from the west side where the majority of the congregation then resided, had to go clear to the corner of Walnut and Main streets, then south a block and then west, and always the church was crowded with those who preceded them. Under these circumstances the conclusion was easily arrived at that a new church was necessary. If the Second Street South Bridge had then been erected, probably the church would have been built on the site of the first church. The German Presbyterians all resided on the east side and were satisfied with the location and when they organized bought the old church property of the First Presbyterian Society.

Albert and Asa B. Clarke, foreseeing the future need of the church, had some years previous bought the lots where the church is now located and the organization concluded to buy these and commence building as soon as possible. This proposition caused somewhat of a ruction in the church organization. Many of the membership were New Englanders and had been reared in the Congregational faith; some of these preferred and did remain with their adopted church but many decided to withdraw and organize a Congregational Church. This certainly was a trial of faith and endurance. The plans which the society had adopted called for a large and expensive church and not alone the material aid which the Congregationalists lent but their prompt and efficient church service was greatly relied upon and needed, especially at this time. But they were firm in their determination to organize a church of their own creed and in the conviction that if it was not yet needed, with the fastly increasing population it soon would be.

The Presbyterians, although the circumstances were very depressing, were just as firm in their determination to build; so in 1868, the construction of the church was begun, but not until June, 1869, was the edifice completed. The brick for the new church was made on the farm of Mr. Samuel Wilson, five miles east of town, and as many teams as could be secured were pressed into service to haul the brick to town. All that took part in this bee was given a royal good dinner which was spread in the old stone store of Mrs. S. S. Clarke. The final service in the old church was held on the 27th of June, and on June 30, 1869, the new church was dedicated. As soon as the congregation was fairly established in the new church, Rev. Mr. Boggs who had been in failing health resigned and with deep regret and much reluctance his resignation was accepted, but he continued to preach occasionally until a new pastor was obtained. Rev. W. B. Phelps of Kilbourne, Wisconsin, succeeded Reverend Boggs. His pastorate began on May 15, 1870, and continued until May, 1880, at the conclusion of which time he resigned to accept a call elsewhere. During Reverend Phelps' pastorate more than two hundred names were added to the roll and in just five years the "organ debt" of \$2,500 was entirely wiped out and without interfering with any of their other obligations. He was succeeded by Rev. J. H. Ritchey of Wisconsin, who began his labors here July 7, 1880, and remained its pastor until October, 1886, when he resigned to become pastor of a church at Portage, Wisconsin, where he remained sixteen years and until his death.



On the 31st of October, 1886, Rev. E. M. Barrett of Waterloo, Iowa, began to preach as stated supply for one year with the idea in view of making him permanent pastor. At the close of the year he declined the call but consented to remain and preach for another year, but before this term was concluded he had received a call from the Presbyterian Church of Iowa City, which he decided to accept if the Independence Church would release him, which they consented to do. The pulpit was vacant but a few Sundays and in October, 1888, Rev. Frank N. Riale was extended a call which he accepted and on June 4, 1889, was duly installed as pastor, which position he occupied until 1894, when he was forced to resign on account of impaired health occasioned by overwork. Besides his pastoral duties for a congregation of three hundred or more members, he wrote numerous magazine articles for different publications. He managed, however, to keep up until some months after the close of his Independence pastorate when he suffered a complete breakdown which took him months to recover from. To Rev. D. W. Fahs was tendered a call and he began his services in March, 1895, in which he continued until when he received a call to the Presbyterian Church of Cedar Falls and in which he still continues. Under his leadership the church, in the year 1900, was practically rebuilt to accommodate the greatly increased membership. The wall separating the lecture room from the main building was removed and replaced with sliding doors, thus permitting both rooms to be thrown together to accommodate unusually large audiences, making the seating capacity of the two rooms 1,000. The pulpit, choir and pipe organ were placed in a circular addition built on to the west of the Main Building, new seats, furniture and fixtures were bought, a kitchen and class rooms built which greatly added to the convenience and attractiveness of the edifice. Beautiful stained glass windows (several of them memorial windows) and frescoed walls greatly enhanced the beauty of the auditorium. The improvements cost \$7,650 of which sum \$5,310 had been subscribed previous to the completion of the building, and at the first meetings held after its completion \$2,400 was contributed which more than covered the necessary amount.

Rev. Theodore Morning, the present pastor, was duly installed on Wednesday, March 4, 1908, and continues his service, an able, energetic man. It is a remarkable fact that in sixty years of its history the church has had but seven pastors.

The first pipe organ in Independence was installed in the Presbyterian Church at its completion in 1869. It was a great wonder in the community. Two organ concerts at a dollar a ticket were given to pay for it. Budley Buck, the famous pipe-organist and composer, was here to play for that occasion. The organ and choir were at first placed in a balcony at the north end of the old church where they remained until Reverend Ritchie's pastorate, when they were placed back of the pulpit and remained until the last mentioned change.

The church has always sustained a reputation, both in and out of Independence, for excellent choir and organ music, as have all the churches in Independence—being considered far above the average. But special mention should be made of Mr. John G. Whitney under whose able direction it probably attained its greatest degree of efficiency, if conscientious and untiring labor and length of service counts. At that time it was considered one of the best

choirs in the state. He commenced his duties as choir leader in the old church and continued in that position for twenty successive years, ably assisted most of the time by his two daughters, Mesdames Mary Currier and Florence Williams. In those early days music books were scarce and expensive, and Mr. Whitney made his own books, some of which are still in existence and greatly treasured by those who are in possession of them. At the present time the choir is under the able management of Mrs. F. B. Ireland, whose long service as leading soprano and teacher of voice makes her highly efficient as a leader and director. Vesper services and special service programmes have been given of the highest order. During Reverend Barrett's pastorate an orchestra was for the first time introduced and made the services especially attractive.

Added to the quartette which sings at the morning service, the musical force of the vested choir of young ladies, which sings at the evening services. This choir has chosen the name of St. Cecilia and is a most efficient organization. Miss Alice Rogers is the director.

The church also enjoys on many occasions the services of a male chorus, directed by the pastor.

In the week of the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th of December, 1904, the church celebrated its semi-centennial anniversary with appropriate and memorable services. As many as possible of the old members and former pastors were in attendance. Mrs. A. B. Clarke, the only one of the charter members alive at that time, wrote a very interesting letter which was read by her son, R. F. Clarke, in which she told in a bright and pleasing manner of their early experience and struggles. Mrs. Clarke unfortunately was absent spending the winter in California. Another interesting letter from Mrs. Adaline M. Boggs, wife of the first regular pastor was also read, and gave a graphic picture of her advent into, and first impressions of Independence and their church services in those early days. Reminiscences, roll of honor, histories of the church, anniversary sermon, Sunday school reunions and a greeting from the German Presbyterian Church were among the features of this four-day jubilee service.

Among the notable speakers from abroad were Rev. E. R. Burkholter, D. D., of Cedar Rapids, veteran pastor of the first church, and George E. McLean, L. S. D., of Iowa City, president State University.

In 1892, Mr. J. B. Jones left in his will the property known as the S. S. Allen Place to the church for a manse, and in 1902 the old building was removed and a new house was erected at a cost of \$6,500.00. Again in 1905 Mrs. S. P. Campbell purchased the property and the present manse was built on the adjoining lots at a cost of \$5,000.00, exclusive of the value of the lots.

The church has always had the usual auxiliary societies for men, women and young people.

The Sunday school has been an active force in the church from the first. At the present time it is fully organized and officered by able and considerate men and women. The total enrollment in all departments is 422. An active Y. P. S. C. E. and a Westminster minister are among the most dominant factors in the life of the church in both a social and helpful way.

The Woman's Missionary Society has brought a missionary interest to the congregation and it has been instrumental in raising large sums of money for the cause of missions at home and abroad.

In the sixty years of its history the church has contributed for all purposes \$186,091, of which \$39,063.00 was for benevolences.

The total membership in 1860 was 66; in 1904, 402; and the present membership is 472.

#### NEW ENGLAND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The New England Congregational Church of Independence was constituted on May 8, 1867. The recognition was on the 19th, the public services being held in the Baptist Church. The number of members at the organization was nine. On the 16th of the same month eight additional members were admitted, so that, at the time of recognition, the membership was seventeen. The officers of the church were pastor, deacons, clerk, treasurer and trustees.

C. C. Caldwell was the first clerk, Spencer W. Noyes the first deacon, and Rev. Henry Mills the first pastor, beginning stated supply of pulpit the first Sabbath in March, 1868.

The New England Congregational Society was organized on the 18th day of March, 1868, by the adoption of articles of incorporation and compact with the church. In July the soil was broken and the foundation, superstructure and furnishings of a building followed in quick succession. On the 16th day of December following the house was dedicated and subscriptions and cash raised to meet all bills against the society. Four hundred dollars was given by the Church Building Society.

Among the early members who helped very largely financially were Doctor Bryant and Mr. C. G. Woodruff. Doctor Bryant also donated the lot north of the church, which was kept as a park for many years. Mrs. Woodruff's uncle, Hon. O. Sage of Ware, Mass., donated the bell, and he and his son-in-law, Mr. William Hyde, of Ware, Mass., helped generously with money. Mrs. Chapin of Chicopee, Mass., gave the Bible for the pulpit. A church in Dubuque had burned out, but had saved their pulpit, and this was given to the church in Independence.

Rev. Charles Bissell was the second minister, Rev. L. W. Brintnall the third, and Rev. L. W. Foster the fourth. After the close of his pastorate, the members were much discouraged and no meetings were held for about two years. For several months the building was used as a schoolhouse. February 11, 1884, E. A. Chapman and family and his father, Rev. Daniel Chapman, moved to Independence. In the next two weeks, Reverend Chapman told the Congregationalists that if they would open the church he would preach. About thirty were present at his first sermon. In a month or two, the church was repaired and Rev. M. S. Crosswell called as regular pastor, serving two years. E. A. Chapman was appointed Sunday school superintendent, and was either superintendent or assistant superintendent for twenty years, till his removal to Cedar Falls.

Reverend Horn came in July, 1886, and remained one year. In the spring of 1888, Reverend Baker took up the work and remained four years, leaving in 1892. He was a sincere, faithful pastor, though well along in years. It was during the last of his pastorate that C. W. Williams took an active interest in the church, introducing an orchestra and Sunday evening concerts, purchased a good organ for the Sunday school and contributed largely in many ways. Rev. J. W.

Horner was the next pastor, coming in January, 1893, and leaving in the fall of 1898, giving nearly six years of energetic service. His wife and daughters were a great help in the social life of the church, and in reaching the young people. The membership reached its highest point in these years, about one hundred and fifty. He was followed by Reverend Douglass in January, 1899. He remained a little over a year. Rev. H. C. Rosenberger came in August, 1900, serving four years. He and his family gave faithful, efficient work, but owing to the removal of several important families to other localities, the church became much weakened. Reverend Hotze was pastor from October, 1904, to July, 1905, when the church was closed, and no regular services were held for 2½ years.

In the meantime Mrs. C. A. Morgan, one of the faithful, long-time members had died, leaving her home to be used for the benefit of the church. It was sold and the proceeds used in remodeling the church building. Also the north lot was sold for the same purpose. They now have a very tasteful and convenient house of worship, and the members, though few and much discouraged, finally resolved to try again.

Rev. T. B. Couchman and his splendid family began work in April, 1908. The members rallied, and slowly but surely progress was made. After three years' service he felt called to a stronger church. Rev. Stewart Smith was the last pastor, coming in June, 1911, and leaving in October, 1912.

There was a division of opinion among the members as to the advisability of continuing the church. Without union it was certainly impossible to do so, and the meetings were closed. But we trust that the influence of the little church has gone out into all the world and will never end.

The property was deeded in August, 1913, by the trustees to the state conference.

There were two organizations connected with the church work which should be given special mention, the Ladies' Aid and the missionary societies. The Ladies' Aid was organized June 17, 1886, with sixteen members. Mrs. H. M. Stewart, mother of Mrs. L. W. Parish, was its first president: Mrs. E. Ross was vice president, and Mrs. E. M. Potwin, secretary and treasurer. Of the first year's members, Mrs. M. R. Adams, Mrs. Louisa Parker and Mrs. E. M. Potwin worked continuously in the society till its close in 1912, a period of twenty-six years. Mrs. Potwin was secretary for twenty-four years. Mrs. C. M. Morse was president 5½ years, the longest term of any president. Many other faithful workers could be mentioned.

In the twenty-six years forty-six socials were held, thirty suppers, nineteen bazaars and sales of various kinds. Five hundred copies of the Columbian Cook Book were printed under the leadership of Mrs. C. W. Williams. The total amount of money earned was \$3,100. This was used in various ways, such as payments on pastor's salary, putting in of electric lights, furnace, painting the church and other smaller matters. The membership never exceeded thirty in one year, and generally was less.

The Missionary Society was organized March 1, 1894, with fourteen members. Mrs. E. M. Potwin was the first and only president. Mrs. Isaac Preble was vice president, and Mrs. J. D. Boyack, secretary and treasurer. Meetings were held regularly on the first Friday of each month, even when the church was closed. Most interesting and carefully prepared programs were given upon the

work of the denomination in home and foreign lands. The contributions toward the support of this work amounted in eighteen years to \$1,600.

In all departments of religious work the church has tried to carry its share. Those who have received their early religious training here are scattered in all parts of the United States, living better and more useful lives because of the seed sown here. Some have said that they derived more benefit from their labors in the small church than they have in the larger churches with which they have worked since.

With thankfulness for its past record and sincere regret for its close, this brief summary is submitted.

#### BAPTIST CHURCH

The first Baptist Church of Independence was organized May 9, 1858, with the following constituent members: Men—L. W. Cook, M. D. Weston, Josiah Brace, J. C. Loomis. Women—Emily C. Cook, Sarah E. Smith, Urene Weston, Elizabeth Chandler, Melvina Bartle, I. F. Loomis and Electa (Young) Smith, who is the only living charter member at the present time. After holding services in the courthouse for six years, in 1865 they finished and dedicated a beautiful house of worship, which has since been enlarged. Its beautiful spire rising above the tree tops served a guiding point for miles around to the sparsely settled community.

The dedication of the new Baptist Church occurred on Thursday, August 31, 1865, Rev. Mr. Hodge, of Janesville, Wis., preached in the morning and evening, and Rev. Mr. Chapin, of Dubuque, in the afternoon. Reverend Mr. Hunter, of Waterloo; Reverend Mr. Sill, of Shell Rock; Reverend Mr. Burrington, of Waverly, were also present and took part in the exercises. The attendance upon the services was quite large, especially in the morning. The extreme heat kept many away in the afternoon.

At the close of the service in the morning a statement of the cost and indebtedness of the church was made to the following effect: Total cost of church, \$5,600; indebtedness, \$700. To assist in the liquidation of this debt \$331 was subscribed on the spot, many of the friends of the church living at great distances subscribing liberally.

Over half the amount heretofore raised for building and church was the direct result of the labors of the pastor, Rev. John Fulton outside of the county.

The church was conducted under the original organization until August 10, 1896, at which time it was incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa. The incorporators being S. B. Hovey, H. A. Clark, G. N. Leach, J. L. Mabie, Simpson Stout, W. E. Closson, George S. Dean, A. G. Beatty, Clinton E. Miller, George W. Gemung, Mrs. Electa Smith, A. L. Kandee, Josiah Brace, and L. A. Main.

In the spring of 1905 it was determined to improve the appearance and enlarge the capacity of the church edifice. At the Sunday morning service, March 12th, subscriptions amounting to more than seventeen hundred dollars were raised. A twenty-foot addition was built at the north end of the church extending to an ell at the east side of the building, 20x28 feet. A fine basement kitchen is one of the necessary and attractive features. The first floor of

the addition is used for Sunday school and young people's meetings and will open into the main body of the church by means of rolling partitions; the second floor above is furnished as a parlor for society meetings and social entertainments.

The present officers of the church are W. H. Stickel, pastor; A. G. Beatty, clerk, a position which Mr. Beatty has held for twenty years. Deacons: J. H. Mathew, Mel L. Webster, Walter Harrington and E. M. Thompson. The board of trustees consists of Dr. M. R. Brierly, president; S. B. Hovey, vice president and treasurer; A. G. Beatty, clerk, and the following lay members: M. A. Kippen, Cliton E. Miller, Mel L. Webster, and S. Stout. In February, 1870, the Baptist Foreign Missionary Society was organized.

In connection with the church a very successful Sunday school is conducted, having been organized at the time of the organization of the church and has continued ever since. The records fail to show who the original officers of the Sunday school were and we have been unable to learn from any of the members. At present Clinton E. Miller is superintendent; Charlotte Erierson, secretary, and James Moore, Jr., treasurer. The average attendance being for the past year fifty-eight. Collections amounted to \$117.79, expenses \$49.25, \$36.66 was contributed to missions and there is now on hand a balance of \$37.88.

In connection with the church there has been organized a Baptist Young People's Union with a membership of twenty, Miss Margaret Neilson being the president.

The Ladies' Aid Society is another attractive feature of the church's activities which, together with the foreign and home missions, are conducted largely by the lady members of the church.

#### ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

In the late '60s, when Father John Gosker was pastor at St. John's Church, there was rumor of building a second Catholic Church in this city, but the project was dropped as premature. It was in the year 1882 when the subject was revived again and accordingly a meeting was held at King's Opera House to determine the advisability of such an undertaking. Dr. F. Richard was elected president and John Till secretary of the meeting.

It was decided at this meeting to send Vincent Wieser and Nic Maas as delegates to Dubuque to ask the Rt. Rev. John Hennessey, Bishop of Dubuque, for permission to build a German Catholic Church, which was willingly granted. A committee was then appointed to go ahead with the work. The dimensions of the church were 70 feet long, 40 feet wide, with 24-foot posts, and a spire of 107 feet.

The contract to build the church was awarded to Jacob Bach for the consideration of \$5,000. Ground was broken late in the fall of 1882 and the cornerstone laid. The building itself was to be started in 1883 and finished in the fall of that year. In the fall of 1884 the parsonage was erected at a cost of \$1,400, and in September, 1897, the pipe organ, costing \$800, was put in.

On March 30, 1898, the erection of the parochial school was begun and was finished in August of the same year. The first sisters were Sister M. Bernarda, M. Narcissa, and M. Marina. The cost of the building was \$3,000.



OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH





Six months after the church was built, Father J. Drexler was appointed their pastor. He served for several years and was followed in order by Fathers Weirich, Reinert, and Naebers, who is now acting as pastor of St. Joseph's. The church has a membership at present of about seventy families.

Among the societies are the Rosary Society organized in 1898, the Holy Face Confraternity in 1899, and the Young Ladies' Sodality organized in 1901.

On November 30, 1897, four acres of land were bought from Thomas Burk for burial purposes. This cemetery was located on the eastern border of the city. This cemetery is not used at present, the church using the St. John's Cemetery.

The total valuation of the church property at present is \$20,000.

The parishioners of St. Joseph's German Catholic Church of Independence completed their handsome parochial school in August, 1898. It was largely through the efforts of Rev. Joseph Drexler that this movement was accomplished.

In the winter previous a meeting of the members of the church was called at which it was decided to build the fine structure that now ornaments the grounds south of the church. At that meeting the following executive committee was appointed: Gill Kayser, president; N. J. Iekel, secretary; Rev. Joseph Drexler, treasurer; and U. Wengert, M. Graff, John Dange, John Schmidt, John F. Iekel and John Weber. The work then began in earnest. H. A. Hall, architect, was consulted and drew up plans and specifications which were accepted and the contract for construction was given to E. S. Price.

The school building is of frame and veneered with Gladbrook pressed brick. It is 40 by 32 feet. The basement contains the cellar, winter chapel and furnace.

On the first floor there is a school room, 31 by 16 feet, a large entrance hall, kitchen, dining room and parlor, and on the second floor is a school room the same size as on the first floor and three sleeping rooms. The attic is 40 by 32 feet and 9 feet high and can be used for storage or sleeping room. The building, when completed, cost \$3,000, and in a few months after completion was entirely out of debt, a splendid accomplishment for so small a congregation.

Three sisters of St. Francis Order were placed in charge of the school— one as cook and the other two as teachers. German and English both were taught. A formal dedication took place on August 10, 1898, Very Rev. George W. Heer, of Dyersville, delivered the dedicatory sermon in the German language. It was a very able effort and Rev. P. L. O'Connor, of Oelwein, who assisted in the services, gave a sermon in English. After services a well prepared dinner was served and the day's exercises closed with a lawn fete at which ice cream and other delicacies were sold, the proceeds netting the school a nice sum. This school has been conducted with more or less success ever since. The first enrollment numbered fifty-two pupils.

#### ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

In the years 1854 and 1855 the few Catholics of Buchanan County were attended by priests from Dubuque. Also, for several years Father Shields of Waverly, Iowa, looked after the spiritual needs of the people here. In 1856 a small Catholic church was constructed. It was a small frame building located near the site of the present Buchanan County Courthouse. On December 18, 1862, Rev. John L. Gosker was appointed by Bishop Smith, of Dubuque, to take

charge of the parish at Independence. Father Gosker was the first resident pastor of St. John's and through his untiring efforts a church was built. On September 6, 1864, the cornerstone was laid with very imposing ceremonies. Eight priests were in attendance. Bishop Smith, of Dubuque, delivered the address. An excursion was run from Dubuque and a large crowd came out for the ceremony. In December, 1864, the new brick church was completed on the corner of Mott and Elizabeth streets, now the corner of Fourth Avenue and Second Street Northeast. Its dimensions were 40 by 70 feet. Rev. John Gosker had charge of the congregation here for about sixteen years and can really be called the founder of the true Catholic spirit in Buchanan County. He labored under great difficulties and performed his work well. He was called, by both Catholics and Protestants, "Father John." A big fair which lasted four days, from the 19th to the 22d of December, was the opening of the church. This was in charge of the women of the church, from which they realized about eight hundred and twenty-five dollars. They collected \$200 more.

In the year 1878, Rev. Patrick Burke took charge and officiated in this capacity until the year 1881.

In October, 1881, Rev. P. O'Dowd was appointed rector of St. John's Church by Bishop Hennessey. This begun the work of a good and noble man, which only ended in death undoubtedly brought on by the hard labors he had given to his congregation and church. A complete sketch of Father O'Dowd may be found in the second volume of this work.

In the year 1883 the German speaking people of St. John's Church separated from it and built their own church, which is called St. Joseph's. The history of this society follows this sketch.

In the spring of 1910 the advisability of building a new church to replace the old St. John's began to be considered by the people. The new project, largely through the efforts of Father O'Dowd became a certainty and the laying of the cornerstone took place on June 27, 1911. Twenty priests assisted Father O'Dowd, and the ceremonies incident to the time were very impressive and elaborate. This was the beginning of the structure which today graces the City of Independence. Its two beautiful symmetrical spires rise far into the heavens; its glittering golden crosses may be seen for miles around. The sum of \$40,000 was expended on this beautiful structure. It was built of pressed brick and boulder foundation, in Gothic style of architecture, artistic and substantial. The new church is said to be one of the finest in this part of the country. It is large and commodious. Numerous beautiful stained glass memorial windows are one of the chief adornments. And a most beautiful altar also makes it one of the best furnished churches in this vicinity.

After Father Garland's appointment to this charge the parsonage was entirely remodeled at a cost of \$7,000, and was beautifully fitted and furnished by the congregation.

On April 26, 1912, occurred the death of Very Rev. P. O'Dowd, a detailed account of which is given in his sketch.

Succeeding Rev. Father O'Dowd came Rev. J. J. Garland. During his pastorate in this city he improved the church very materially and for his generosity and excellent work was honored by the Pope with the rank of Monseigneur. The conferring of this title was one of the grandest ceremonies

ever witnessed in Independence. Reverend Garland continued his labors here until his death on September 15, 1914. Rev. J. S. Linkenmeyer, who was acting as assistant at the time, was appointed administrator of the pastorate and is now acting as the same. St. John's has a membership of several hundred and is one of the strongest church organizations in the county.

Attached to St. John's Church is a convent called the Notre Dame Seminary. It is conducted under the auspices of the sisters of Notre Dame Seminary. It is intended for the education of the children of the Catholic community. Besides the care for the young, the good sisters have always done much good and noble work in tending the sick and performing other acts of mercy among the parishioners. The convent was purchased by Mother Borrimew for \$7,000 in the year 1869. The school was started by Father Gosker at the time the church was built. Today there are twenty sisters in the convent, with Mother Ignatius at their head. They have branch schools at Banleston, Eagle Center and St. Joseph's German Catholic School, at Independence. The Young Ladies' Sodality, an auxiliary of the church, is one of the active and strong organizations and greatly assisted the church in a social and financial way.

#### GERMAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On the 20th of September, 1858, Rev. F. C. Schwartz, a minister of the Presbyterian Church (old school) preached here to a goodly number of Germans in the English Presbyterian Church in Independence. After the services were over most of the Germans present asked him to stay, at least for a time, and preach for them, which he did. He labored here till June 7, 1858, on which day the following persons met in the evening to consult in regard to a church organization: E. Zinn, F. Herman, P. Tempus, Charles Heege, V. Klotzback, H. Dellfield, F. Bittner, John Bechkemmer, J. Moser, I. Langeneckardt, J. Mohring, Henry Langeneckardt, I. Schenkowitz, Christian Schaefer, and Eberard Langeneckhardt. Rev. F. C. Schwartz presided and it was resolved after reading and adopting the Westminster catechism, to be organized into a Presbyterian Church, and all present signed a petition to the Dubuque presbytery to grant them such an organization as soon as convenient.

On the 7th day of July, 1858, a committee of the presbytery of Dubuque, consisting of Rev. A. Van Vliet and Rev. F. C. Schwartz, met with these people at the schoolhouse in the eastern part of the town. Reverend Mr. Van Vliet preached a sermon, and then the two ministers examined the people present, also putting the usual questions and offering prayer, after which the church was declared organized, under the name of the "German Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa." The following day, July 8th, another meeting was held, and after the sermon the following persons were duly elected as officers of the church: Eckhardt Zinn and Fred Herman, elders; Christian Schaefer and Henry Langeneckardt, deacons. These four brethren received their ordination July 11, 1858, according to the constitution of the Presbyterian Church, old school.

All these proceedings are recorded in the session book of the said church, and signed by Rev. F. C. Schwartz. The congregation consisted at that time

of twenty-seven male and twenty-five female members, numbering in all fifty-two souls. On July 15th the congregation had a meeting at which it was resolved to purchase a lot and build thereon a place of worship. They bought one-half of a lot in the eastern part of the town, near the courthouse, of Judge O. H. P. Roszell, for \$125, to be paid in three years. At a meeting it was resolved to have the church incorporated according to the laws of the State of Iowa, and a committee of five was elected to take charge of this business. This was done in April, 1860.

At the meeting of April 15, 1860, there was much disagreement in regard to paying for the lot and building a meeting-house, and four persons were soon after dropped from the roll of the church. April 29, 1860, they had another meeting at which Rev. F. C. Schwartz resigned his position as stated supply. His farewell sermon was preached on the 5th of the following July, and a few days thereafter he removed from the place.

After this the church dwindled for several years. Reverend Mr. Van Vliet, of Dubuque, came frequently to preach, and some of his theological students occasionally—the people simply paying their expenses. But most of the so-called members of the church, and the few that remained were not able to pay the balance due on the lot which had been purchased and so it was sold. Not for eight years were regular services held there.

On June 7, 1868, Rev. John G. Schaible commenced preaching for this little flock. There was one elder left, Mr. E. Zinn, and two deacons, P. Tempus and H. Longeneckhardt. Besides these there were only eight members more—making eleven in all. Mr. Schaible began his ministrations in the courthouse, and after he had moved his family here, the morning services were held in the schoolhouse north of the courthouse and the evening in the English Presbyterian Church. About twenty members were added to the church soon after.

April 29, 1869, the session book was for the first time submitted to the inspection of the presbytery of Dubuque. It was examined, approved and signed by the moderator, Rev. J. S. Wilson.

February 25, 1869, a Sabbath-school was commenced with eighteen scholars.

March 9, 1869, the old Presbyterian Church and lot, near the east bank of the river was purchased for \$1,000. After improvements were made to the amount of \$170, the church was reconsecrated to the service of the Lord by Rev. A. Van Vliet, of Dubuque, and Reverend Mr. Boggs, of this city, and all was paid for on the day of the reconsecration, and enough was left to buy a cabinet organ for the church.

July 6, 1872, Rev. John G. Schaible was called to the pastorate of the church, after having served as stated supply for four years and two months, and on the fifteenth of the same month, he was duly installed as pastor by the Rev. Messrs. W. B. Phelps and J. Conzett.

May 25, 1874, the church building was destroyed in the great fire which swept away the most of the business portion of the town. But the little flock was not discouraged. They received, for insurance, \$1,000; raised a subscription among themselves; obtained some help from the good people, and, on the 6th of January, 1876, the present comely brick edifice, standing on the site

of the old one, was dedicated by Rev. A. Elfied, of Freeport, Illinois, and Rev. E. Schmetta, of Waukon, Iowa. The entire cost of the new church was \$1,700, and the whole was paid without delay. Reverend Schaible faithfully served this church for fifteen years, when he was succeeded by Rev. Henry C. Schluetevon, September 7, 1884. He remained but a little over a year when Rev. Ernest Schuette was called on May 23, 1886, and filled the charge most acceptably until May 23, 1894, when he accepted a call to Dubuque. He was succeeded by Rev. E. C. Walters on January 28, 1895, who remained until March 30, 1906. On the 9th of June, 1907, Rev. Geo. E. Reibert was installed as pastor and remained until September 20, 1911. He was succeeded by Rev. John Figue, who acted as pastor from October 13, 1912, until December 7, 1913. Since that date the organization has been without a regular pastor. Services are occasionally conducted by substitute ministers, and although small in numbers, they are a harmonious and influential organization. The young people of the church have for years maintained an active Christian Endeavor Society and still hold regular meetings.

The young people of the German Presbyterian Church organized a society on Monday evening, March 20, 1905, called the Jugend Verein. The object of the society was for Bible study and sociability and the meetings occurred on the first Thursday of each month. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. E. C. Wolters; vice president, Miss Minnie Waekerbarth; secretary, Henry Kortemeyer; treasurer, Miss Katherine Schwartz. Meetings are held once a month.

This society and the church once a year give a public supper which is the anticipation and the glorification of all those who believe in "gastronomic gratification."

#### EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN EMMANUEL CHURCH

The Evangelical Lutheran congregation was organized in 1861. Prior to that time they and the Reformed had Union services. Reverend Schmuez was the pastor, since he favored the reformed members more than the Lutherans, the latter withdrew and organized a congregation for themselves.

The professor and students from the Wartburg Seminary at St. Sebald, Iowa, cared for the congregation. Services were held in the schoolhouse where now the courthouse stands. But St. Sebald being too far, the congregation deemed it better to be served by the pastor from Spring Creek. Ten years it was served from there, but the services could not be regularly held on account of the weather.

In 1871 the schoolhouse was torn down to make room for a new one. As a result the congregation was without a place of worship and after much deliberation bought the lot on the corner of Fifth Street and Sixth Avenue, northeast, for the sum of \$200. Thereon they built a small church. On September 10, 1871, it was dedicated by Professor Fritschel and Reverends Grossmann and Leupp. This structure served until in 1907, when it was removed to the Buchanan County Fair Grounds, where it still stands.

The first pastor was Reverend Brueckner, of Spring Creek. In 1872 the congregation decided to have its own pastor. J. L. Christ, student in St. Sebald

was called and on Easter entered the pastorate. In 1875, a parsonage was built. From here also the congregation in Earlville was organized and for a number of years composed the parish. In 1878 Reverend Christ received a call from Wisconsin, where he stayed two years, then he returned to Independence. During this interim, the congregation was taken care of from Waterloo and Earlville.

Reverend Christ served the congregation until the fall of 1905, when he retired from active ministry. Rev. A. R. Boer became his successor. Under his leadership the present church at a cost of \$3,000 was built. On September 29, 1907, the cornerstone was laid. The dedication took place December 22d of the same year. Prof. G. J. Zeilinger and Rev. J. Loreh, assisting. Likewise in the parsonage certain improvements were made in the year before. On the 2d of March, 1910, the pastorate of Reverend Boer terminated. He followed a call to St. Paul, Minnesota. Rev. J. O. Krueger, of Pepin, Wisconsin, became his successor. The remaining debt of the church was paid off, and a two manual pedal organ for \$400 was installed.

The congregation was never very large, but rather small, as there were only a few Germans in Independence and surrounding vicinity. When Reverend Boer became the pastor, the Synod found it necessary to aid the congregation. This was done until 1914. The last four years the congregation steadily grew and is now self supporting. It has forty-six voting members (male), 150 communicants, a Ladies' Aid Society, Lutheran League and Young People's Society, English and German Sunday School. Services are conducted in German and English. Prospects seem favorable for a steady growth.

#### CHURCH OF THE EVANGELICAL SOCIETY

This society was one of the early religious societies established by the Germans. The services were conducted in the German language. A. Hageman was the moving spirit in the organization of the society in 1856. He furnished the means in a large extent to erect the first church building, which was built of stone on Lot 2, in Block 10, Independence, in 1858. Mr. Hageman contributed about nine hundred dollars. Wm. and John Schmidt did the mason work and James Jamison, a lawyer, and D. T. Randall, a merchant, furnished sufficient funds to buy the shingles.

The building was used for church purposes for some thirty years and they sold and converted it into a dwelling for which purpose it was used until recently when it was torn down and a store building erected which is now occupied by John Klotzbaeh.

Mr. Hageman was a very active member of the church. At times he preached and was for a considerable time superintendent of the Sunday School and teacher of one of the classes.

Rev. R. Dubs, later a bishop of the church, was the first regular minister of whom we have been able to learn. He had the pastorate about two years, beginning about 1860. The society then belonged to a circuit extending over a large pastorate of Northern Iowa.

After selling the stone church the society built a frame structure in the **Fourth Ward**, which was occupied by them until the society disbanded some

ten years ago, when the building was sold. It has been impossible for us to locate any records of this church or any person who is able to give any further details regarding it.

#### FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

Christian Science was first introduced into Independence about nineteen or twenty years ago. Interest was first awakened through healing, and a few people began to read and study the Lesson Sermons in their homes. Soon others became interested and a society was formed. The public library was selected as a place to hold meetings and services continued here for about a year when the attendance had increased to such an extent that it was necessary to obtain larger quarters. A hall was rented and at this time, November, 1896, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Independence, was organized with eighteen charter members. A building fund was started and some years later, in July, 1904, a lot centrally located was purchased on which there was a two-story frame building. This the members proceeded to remodel and now occupy the same as a church and reading room. It is free from incumbrance and there yet remains a growing building fund for further needs.

The congregation have contributed mid-week Testimonial Meetings and a Sunday School and every year a lecture is given by some prominent Scientist, to which the public is invited, free of charge.

The church is in a prosperous condition, and although it has never had a phenomenal growth has steadily increased in membership.

The Scientists have furnished the public library copies of Science and Health, and the Christian Science Journal for many years.

#### CHURCH NOTES

The Presbyterians held their regular morning services, while the bridge was out, at their brick edifice on the east side and instead of evening services, meetings were held at 3 P. M. in the brick schoolhouse on the west side. This is the old brick building in the Third Ward, south of what is known as the commons. It has been occupied as a home for many years.

The Spiritualists had quite a strong organization in this town in the early days. A course of lectures was given at the courthouse in May, 1862. Numerous other lectures had preceded these and many mediums, some of national fame, visited this town and adherents of this faith numbered some of the influential people of the town.

The Universalist faith also had some followers, among them many of our prominent citizens. They used to hold services in the courthouse and at one time conducted a Sunday school.

In the early days donation parties were all the rage and the ministers were almost entirely dependent upon the generosity of the people in this way for their support. Salaries were too meager to be of much substantial assistance to the support of the ministers. Scarcely a week, during certain seasons in the year, but the general public were not only invited but urged to participate in this twofold pleasure and duty. Many times these affairs

proved to be of real remunerative benefit, often the minister receiving his entire winter's supply in this way and the generosity and appreciation of the people generally manifested itself with some personal gift, as well.

In the early days perfect harmony existed between the various denominations as is manifested by the way they cooperated and assisted each other while their different edifices were being built. The Baptists conducted services in the winter of 1864 in the Episcopal Church and at one time it was the custom for the members of the Methodist congregation to hold weekly sociables at the homes of the members of the Baptist Congregation and the Baptists held sociables at the leading Methodists' homes.

In the Presbyterian congregation the semi-monthly sociable was a permanent institution in the early '70s and was held in rotation at the homes of the members, the place of meeting announced from the pulpit. People loved to get together for social as well as religious purposes.

The Sabbath Schools of the county were accustomed to having a Grand Union Picnic once a year. In 1861, a picnic was held in Dickinson's Grove just north of Independence. A fine entertainment, all kinds of amusements, for old and young, and sumptuous dinner made these affairs pleasurable events.

In September, 1864, they met at Quasqueton to celebrate. On these occasions the teams and wagons bearing the joyful occupants were gaily decorated with flags, flowers and banners bearing the class names and mottoes and on their way to the picnic grounds made a picturesque sight. The Independence delegation took a fife and drum corps with them, and usually there was one or two bands in attendance. A short distance out from Quasqueton the different delegations were met by an escort on horseback and accompanied in a grand and impressive manner to the scene of the festivities. Here a sumptuous dinner followed by an elaborate programme were the features of the day. During the years of the war, these affairs were very demonstrative and patriotic, and resolutions of some patriotic character were usually adopted.

When the churches were first built, it seems to have been the custom to advertise a sale of the seats—and a plat of the floor plans was left in public places for the purpose of inducing people to subscribe. A public meeting was announced at which the seats were sold as at an auction.

The weekly prayer meetings were held at the different members' homes, and these were looked forward to with pleasurable anticipation, not only for the spiritual uplift derived, but for the social intercourse, which those early pioneers so greatly enjoyed.

A local church paper published by the First Presbyterian Church Society of Independence had the following to say about the Independence papers in its last issue.

“What an array of journalism Independence will soon have, there will be the American Trotter to remind us we are living in a fast age. The Journal showing how we love to get the latest news in the spiciest manner, and The Conservative ever assuring us that democracy still thrives, and the Bulletin, a standing evidence that death does not end all. Then comes the Farmers' Alliance, that stands for first and last, and alas, least our 'Church Work' to ever remind us that in all we are doing we can try to do good.”



## CHAPTER XXIV

### COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

#### EARLY COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTIONS—GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE—THE PRESENT DAY.

One of the early industries of the county was a cheese factory at Pine Creek, which was started in 1868, but failed of success through lack of knowledge of the business, and in 1871 Mr. James Hamilton and the energetic farmers of his neighborhood determined to revive the enterprise and accordingly procured the services of J. S. and A. J. Eddy, experienced cheese makers, formerly from the dairy region of New York, and later from Albion, Wisconsin. They commenced operations about the middle of May and in six weeks were receiving 2,100 pounds of milk per day from 125 cows, and making about two hundred and twenty-five pounds of cheese from it. At this time, they had 110 cheeses in their storeroom. The number of patrons was twenty-one. The Messrs. Eddy received the milk and manufactured the cheese for three cents per pound, keeping an account with each patron. The patrons met once in thirty or sixty days and declared dividends and the cheese was sold by a committee.

Mr. A. J. Barnhart was another successful manufacturer of cheese on his farm a few miles south of Independence. The making of cheese is a very particular and risky business, and one year Mr. Barnhart and other cheese manufacturers in the county suffered almost total loss in their cheeses from some taint in the milk probably due to a noxious weed eaten by the cows, and this put a damper on the industry.

In 1878 Mr. Barnhart and C. W. Williams conducted a creamery in a building on the corner of Chatham and Mott streets. They had the best and most modern machinery installed, a churn of 150 gallons capacity, run by a one-horse tread power, and produced the best quality butter. This was one of the best creameries in the county. Mr. Barnhart also conducted several branch creameries.

The creamery business in Buchanan County has always been one of the most important and numerous industries and a history of just this one business would fill a volume.

In the '60s and '70s the manufacture of wagons and carriages was one of the important branches of industry, and plenty of competition was incentive to the production of very superior articles. Six firms were located in Independence, namely: O. E. Hunt, Klotzbach & Bros., Jas. Whit & Co., Rausier & Flanigan, Hageman & Wilson, Dale & Hinman. The aggregate number of

wagons, carriages and sleighs manufactured by these firms in the year 1869 was 344 and their value about \$38,000.

The first, last and only tannery in Buchanan County was established by Messrs. Campbell & Loomis in the autumn of 1858. They commenced in a building twenty by fifty feet, with only eight vats. So encouraging had been their success, both in the quality of their leather and the demand for it, that at the end of the first year they determined to enlarge their establishment. A good, substantial stone building, thirty-five feet square, and two and a half stories high, was erected, and also an addition to the old building of a structure twelve by thirty-five feet.

The first floor of the main building contained a steam engine and boiler, for the purpose of running a fulling mill and other machinery necessary to perfect and expedite the various processes in the manufacture of leather. During the first year the company had manufactured and sold about fifteen hundred pieces of leather, worth from four to five thousand dollars, thus keeping that amount in circulation at home, which otherwise would have been withdrawn from circulation for the purchase of leather in other markets. Such enterprises entitled the projectors to be regarded as public benefactors. With the increased facilities from six to seven thousand pieces per annum were cured. The quality of the "Wapsie leather," as the firm denominated theirs, was conceded to be equal to the better qualities of American bark-tanned leather; and it was claimed that it was even stronger than most of the bark-tanned, and more durable. The tannery was situated in the southeastern part of the town and, very conveniently for water supply, near Malone's Creek, a small but unfailing stream of water, which has at this point sufficient power to turn a small water wheel, by which power all the water needed was pumped from the creek.

The leather turned out by this firm had been tested by both shoemakers and saddlers, and pronounced of an excellent quality; and the success of this manufactory was a source of pride to the citizens of Independence, who viewed with great interest every venture designed to develop the resources of the county and add to the business and population of the place.

If this promising inauguration of an important branch of manufacturing has, through any cause been allowed to decline, it is still desirable for the credit of the community at large that some record should be preserved of this exceptional instance of wisdom in the investment of capital, which, if allowed, would make of Independence that which her natural advantages warrant her in aspiring to become—something more than a railroad station, and a place of deposit for the county records.

The principal building of the establishment above described is still standing, and was afterwards appropriated to the occupation of soap making. In late years it has been used as a dwelling house and now is but a deserted landmark, a relic of former greatness.

The Independence Mill Company is an organization composed entirely of citizens of Independence. It was organized in 1867, and was at that time capitalized at \$75,000, later at \$125,000, which they had invested mainly in the mill and the water privilege of the Wapsipinicon River and included the water power at Quasqueton. The first mill, a sawmill, was for two years the only building on the west side of the river.

It was built on the site of the old "New Haven Mill" (the name first given to the west side of Independence). The first mill was operated and largely owned by S. S. Clark (in 1866 he owned one-half of the entire stock and became a large owner in the new mill). The old mill only had three run of stone and was put to its utmost capacity to do the business alone—before the new mill was completed. The old mill ceased operations in August, 1870. Some people claim that the mill was originally intended as a woolen mill, but at that time this was not a sheep country, and was primarily a wheat country, so the statement is rather doubtful.

In June of that year the contract to build the mill was let to Samuel Sherwood and work commenced immediately. The huge foundation, constructed of granite boulders found scattered over the prairies here, dressed to lay in range work eight feet thick, and the basement of Farley limestone was not completed until the fall of 1868. Work had to be suspended for the winter, but was resumed early in the spring of 1869 and the building was enclosed before the next winter. It is made of heavy timber frame and encased with a brick wall eight inches thick. Its dimensions were sixty-two by twelve feet on the foundation and six stories high—107 feet from the base of the foundation wall to the top of the roof. The mill was designed for twelve runs of stone and has a storage capacity of 250,000 bushels of grain. It was completed and ready for business by August 1, 1870. This mill when built was the largest in Iowa. At first it was fitted with seven turbine wheels, five French buhr stones, two La Croix middlings purifiers and was capable of turning out about seventy-five barrels of a fine quality of fancy patent flour daily. The mill was originally intended for a woolen mill, but as this did not prove to be a good point for that industry, it was made into a flouring mill. The abundant wheat crops of this locality for several years kept this mill in constant operation and made it a paying investment to the stockholders, but the gradual decline and finally total abandonment of this crop on account of continued destruction by chinch bugs lessened the activities of the mill for the manufacture of flour.

In 1897 the mill was entirely remodeled and the latest improved machinery installed whereby all kinds of mill products were made, and the mill company advertised to buy all the rye, buckwheat, and wheat that the farmers would sell. The company enjoyed a liberal patronage for some years and manufactured a fine quality of flour for which they found a ready market—but did not prosper as might be expected.

The company was put into the hands of a receiver in the summer of 1908 and the mill and power sold to a syndicate which afterwards incorporated into the present Wapsipinicon Mill & Power Company, and immediately began the erection of a new concrete dam, and modern water turbines installed which operate an electric dynamo from which much power is now furnished the city in addition to which the power is used to grind feed to some extent.

The Wapsipinicon Mill & Power Company was incorporated in December, 1909. The capital stock was \$125,000, all paid in. The incorporation ran from January 1, 1910, to January 1, 1930. The officers elected were: President, D. S. Jones; vice-president, A. G. Shellito; secretary, A. G. Rigby; treasurer, R. F. Clarke. The directors were Mrs. Caroline N. Clark and Messrs. H. T. Lynch and J. E. Cook.

The business, as stated, was the buying and selling of all products of the soil, manufacture of the same into flour, meal, and other food products and the sale of the same; also the manufacture and sale of electricity and power.

The Independence Soap Factory, conducted by Mr. Rich in 1874, built up a successful and prosperous business in this line. He manufactured both laundry and toilet soaps which were pronounced by the customers to be equal to any on the market. It continued business for several years and then the manufactory was discontinued.

In 1859, Chris Seeland established a brewery in Independence. It was situated at the eastern outskirts of the city, was a large brick edifice and in those days did a lucrative business, manufacturing 650 barrels of lager beer annually. But for many years the business of manufacturing intoxicants has been prohibited within the state and the building is now occupied as a residence by the Seeland family.

Another brewery was established by John Wengert on Walnut Street, near the Illinois Central Depot. This brewery manufactured 2,000 barrels of beer annually.

In the early '80s there were three cigar factories in Independence; one operated by J. W. McCarthy, employing twelve people, manufactured about five hundred thousand cigars annually.

Simpson Stout, who is still in the cigar business, in 1880 employed three or four assistants and made upwards of one hundred and sixty-five thousand cigars annually, selling wholesale at \$25.00 to \$30.00 per thousand.

S. D. Frank, a manufacturer, employed three or four assistants, and manufactured 150,000 annually.

One of the biggest concerns which this city and county have supported is the Palmer egg business, which from a small beginning has grown to such extent that the name is known all over the country and even in foreign lands.

The business was started at Winthrop by John H. Palmer in connection with his general merchandise business. From Winthrop he moved to Cedar Rapids and engaged in the egg business alone.

Mr. H. E. Palmer who had been a partner of his brother at Winthrop in 1865-66 but had for three years from 1872 been engaged in the lumber business in Hudson, Wisconsin, in 1875 returned to Iowa and entered into partnership with his brother at Cedar Rapids. There they remained for two years, at the end of which time they removed to Independence in March, 1877, and which has continuously been the home of this business ever since. In 1885, Mr. H. E. Palmer associated with his brother, A. L., in the conduct of both the egg packing and refrigerator business and established a large branch house at Waterloo.

The business was incorporated in 1885. The egg packing house when built was the largest in the city and with its numerous additions from time to time as the business increased, still makes it one of the largest. Before this house was built the Palmer Bros. rented the old brick refrigerator on Chatham Street, owned by Mr. T. J. Marinus (where is now located Mr. Lon Miller's residence), for storage purposes.

The keen business ability of the Palmer Bros. made this one of the largest of its kind in the entire country, eggs were shipped to every point in the United States and to many foreign ports.

Mr. A. L. Palmer removed from the city and Mr. H. E. conducted it alone until failing health compelled him to sell to the Palmer-Hubbard Co., in the spring of 1902. This firm conducted the business for four years and then sold to the Independence Produce Co. in the spring of 1906.

Mr. Hubbard still sells Palmer eggs in California where he is engaged in business.

The egg business, in connection with the poultry packing and ice cream business, is now conducted by the Independence Produce Co.

The Independence Produce Co. was originally the H. E. Palmer Egg Co., a firm which started business in 1885. The members of this firm were H. E. Palmer and A. L. Palmer.

In 1905 the Independence Produce Co. was incorporated by W. W. Sherwin, of Elgin, Illinois, and C. V. Rosenberger, of Independence. The first capital stock was \$10,000. The company has increased their capital stock to \$13,000. Several of the business men of Independence are largely interested in the concern.

The first business conducted by the company was the egg business. In 1910 the creamery business was added after they had bought out the Wapsie Valley Creamery Co. which was located at Rush Park. The present creamery building was built about 1910. One of the company's chief industries is the manufacture of Rose Dale ice cream, which is shipped to all the neighboring towns.

The plant has been enlarged from time to time and they now have excellent facilities for keeping and testing the various products.

In 1911 they incorporated the poultry business, buying out Smith, Wright & Sons. They have a large cold storage vat and a new type of cage for chickens. The Independence Produce Co. make their specialty milk-fed chickens.

The products are brought into the company from a radius of a hundred miles and are shipped out again all over the world. Just recently ten carloads of eggs were shipped to England to supply the present need caused by the war.

In 1880 three ice companies were doing business in Independence, namely: T. J. Marinus & Son, Kandy & Company and C. E. Burr, and an immense amount of ice was put up. Marinus owned an ice house that would store 1,000 tons and numerous private firms and creameries were supplied by them. The summer of 1880 was such a poor one for the ice business that practically their entire storage was yet unconsumed when it was time to store the next year's crop, which, owing to an extremely early and cold winter was harvested in November. Ice was not a necessity in those days, and the business rather an uncertain venture.

A meeting of the citizens interested in the advancement of local interests held in Independence at Firemen's Hall on March 27, 1888, for the purpose of considering and taking final action to secure the Carpenter and Gennug manufacturing establishment of Brush Creek. The meeting was a success both in point of numbers and enthusiasm, although it was a noticeable fact

that many of the substantial business men and property owners were absent as on many similar booster meetings. The meeting was arranged through the efforts of the board of trade which was a very active organization in those days. W. H. Chamberlain, its president, presided. The object of the meeting was stated and every possible phase of the contemplated project discussed. The manufacturing company demanded a \$4,000 bonus to remove their plant to Independence. It was proposed to raise this sum by subscriptions of \$10 each, the title to the premises thus provided remaining in the original subscribers until the end of four years of successful operation of the works when a deed for one-half of it should be executed to Messrs. Carpenter and Gennug, and at the end of eight years of continuous operation of the enterprise the remaining one-half should be transferred to them. Soliciting committees were appointed and \$2,065 was soon raised, and in two weeks the entire sum was subscribed. The Kellogg, Felch and Smith Building formerly used as a woodworking shop was bought at a very reasonable price, \$2,600, and the plant removed from Brush Creek that spring. The machine which they manufactured, called the Level Tread Horse Power, was considered the most perfect of its kind in the country and was highly recommended by the farmers who used it. The plant gave steady employment to twenty-five or thirty men and often larger numbers. The demand for the Tread Power was great, often far exceeding the supply and the plant was improved from time to time, but eventually the gasoline engine supplanted them and the demand did not warrant a further continuance of the business. The firm removed from the city and the factory was sold to the Iowa Manufacturing Co., then to J. S. Bloom, who removed part of the machinery. The building was then sold to George Neteott and now the Ideal Gasoline Engine Factory are operating their manufacturing there.

In 1891, Leach and Smith built the large wooden building now known as the armory, just north of the high school building. This building was 48 by 75 feet and the two spacious floors, the lower one for the engine and heavy machinery, planing machines, circular saws, etc., and in the upper one was located the various machines necessary in a first-class manufactory of this kind. With all the modern facilities this firm was prepared to manufacture everything in the building and woodwork line.

This manufactory did an extensive business for several years when in 1902 or 1903 Mr. George Leach removed his plant to Cedar Rapids and the building was rented to Company L for an armory.

The building was used for an armory until 1912 when the company was disbanded. It has been variously occupied for skating rinks, dancing hall, chicken shows, shooting gallery, and is now used as a storage house for the Quality Construction Co.

Independence has a fine greenhouse, the only one in the county. It was established in 1891 by Dr. E. M. Bissell, a florist of exceptional ability. The Doctor started in a modest way but from time to time increased his plant, as the demands of his business warranted.

In January, 1897, he sold a half interest in his greenhouse to J. L. Cilley and a new house was added to the three which were already built.

Mr. Cilley remained a partner for some time and then withdrew from the firm, and Doctor Bissell conducted it alone for a time, and then sold out to Dr. R. D. Backus, who kept the plant but a short time and resold to Doctor Bissell, who again operated it alone until his health failed and he was obliged to sell.

In March, 1909, Doctor Bissell sold out to Mr. J. P. Murphy, of Iowa Falls, who took immediate possession. He is a most competent florist and has increased his plant until now it is one of the largest in this part of the state. New heating apparatus has been installed, and the entire plant rebuilt.

Thousands of blossoms are shipped to other cities in the state and often as far as Minneapolis.

One of the most successful patentees of Independence is Mr. J. S. Bloom, who several years ago invented a patent corn cutter and crusher. The first patent was issued in 1901, the second in 1903, and the third in 1909. The two latter patents on improvements on his invention.

He not only patented but manufactures the machine and there is such a ready sale for the machine that he can scarcely supply the demand. Another inventor who has perfected a most successful invention, is Mr. J. H. Smith, formerly of Stanley, who invented a gasoline engine now manufactured in a factory at Indiana.

Mr. Smith is now associated with the Ideal Gasoline Engine factory, now located in the old tread power factory near the Rock Island Depot.

In 1880 a patent for a steam generator was issued to J. H. King and Mr. Drake of Independence.

Independence has for many years nurtured a manufactory that is widely known and patronized. The establishment is owned by W. E. Closson who manufactures family remedies which have become celebrated in their cure-all propensities.

In 1892 Mr. Closson had twenty-one lady clerks busily engaged in looking after his voluminous correspondence and a large amount of medicines were shipped out daily from the establishment.

He also put three medicine wagons on the road which visited 1,800 towns in twelve months, his average sales were 7,200 bottles per week. The druggists who handled his medicines averaged nine to twelve bottles per week. Mr. Closson still continues in the business but not on as large a scale as formerly.

For years the poultry packing business has been one of the substantial industries of Independence. For several years in the '80s and '90s Weins and Shillinglar conducted an immense industry of this kind, first in the old Barnhart store building directly west of the Gedney Hotel corner and for several years in the basement of King's Opera House, thousands of pounds of turkeys, chickens, geese and ducks, were bought, dressed, packed, and shipped, all over the country.

In 1889, which was just an average year, 175,000 pounds of poultry were bought and dressed, 1,400 turkeys and 7,000 chickens aside from a large number of other fowls, at a total cost of \$18,000. The picking of this poultry required the services of twenty-four men, who received a total of \$660 for their labor. The season only lasted twenty-four days and during this time

an average of 5,500 pounds per day was packed and several days as high as \$1,400 was paid out for turkeys alone.

In 1897 the business was under the management of C. S. Isham of Burlington, Vermont, representing Smith, Wright and Sons, who control one of the largest refrigerators in that section. About a million pounds of poultry was dressed, packed and shipped to that cold storage company. Weiss and Shillinglar were the largest poultry buyers in this entire part of the state. At one time during the 1897 season they had 6,000 ducks and were buying more. For some years the Smith-Wright Co. conducted the business alone on a most extensive scale, shipping carloads of dressed fowls to the Eastern markets. Their yearly business averaged about 200,000 pounds. From twenty to twenty-five men were given employment during the busy season.

In 1911 the Smith, Wright & Sons Co. sold to the Independence Produce Co.

In May, 1892, the Independence Investment Association was organized. The association was incorporated under the laws of Iowa and had a capital stock of \$50,000. Its objects were the furtherance of the interests of Independence and immediate vicinity and the making of money for its stockholders. The stock was divided into shares of \$100 each, 25 per cent payable on date of subscription and the balance subject to the call of the association as channels for investment were presented. Any person could become a stockholder by complying with the terms of admission but no investments were to be made outside of Independence and immediate vicinity.

In 1892 the demand for lumber was so great that the Independence lumber dealers could not supply the demand. It was the greatest building year Independence had seen since 1874, the year of the big fire; \$425,000 was put into permanent improvements. The buildings were springing up like mushrooms and Independence had every appearance and promise of becoming a real metropolis, but alas, the boom all depended on speed and she couldn't keep up the gait.—the gas bag burst and the parachute swiftly and speedily fell flat.

Who would now think that Independence once boasted of being "the observed of all observers," that one time the eyes of at least all the sporting world were centered upon this little city?

In 1891 the August races from the 24th to September 18, were universally conceded to be the greatest the world had ever seen. Greatest in purses, \$90,000 being appropriated to the seven days' events; greatest in number and character of its entries, 600 contestants of the finest and fastest in the world; greatest in achievements, world's records were lowered every day and greatest in attendance, about 10,000 people crowded every available foot of space to see the start and finish of these wonderful events. Hotel accommodations in the little city were so inadequate that nearly every private house was turned into a boarding house and the stables into hostleries. People in Independence reaped a rich harvest from this transient horde of Croesus, who spent their money lavishly, and like the kingly "Knights of the Golden Shoes," which they were. One big attraction at the races was the excellent music furnished by the Iowa State Band, for which Mr. Williams paid \$250 per day.



(It was then considered one of the best in the Western States.) For several weeks prior to the races the town began to fill up with strangers, and strings of fast horses formed an almost continuous procession to Rush Park—a resident of Independence felt like a stranger in a strange land—and in just one short week the crowd had all departed, and the usual peace and quiet reigned supreme.

The Pickle Factory was another project started in Independence which did not develop into anything but a newspaper story, although the company of which Mr. Jacob Wackerbarth was president and chief promoter, bought the old brewery property of John Wengert in April, 1899. Those interested in the company were: Mr. Jacob Wackerbarth, M. S. Carver, Thomas and George Blamer, George H. Steinmetz, W. H. Kiefer and Albert Leytze. This was expected to count much for the future prosperity of the town, but evidently the people of Independence had sour enough with their sweet and did not relish any more pickles than they had previously tasted.

In 1897 a new industry was started in Independence, a baking powder establishment, capable of turning out the largest quantity of that necessity of any of its kind in the state, by Joe Langenbach, who operated it on a small scale, but as success seemed to attend the venture, he found it necessary to take a partner into the firm and after a short time negotiations were entered into by which Charles A. Rosemond became a partner. An average daily output was 700 cans. Traveling forces of six men were constantly employed to dispose of the goods and ready sales were experienced by both the manufacturer and the retail trade.

In 1898 the force was increased to twenty, and the states of Iowa, North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Illinois constituted the territory covered. One of their regular customers was the Self-Rising Buckwheat Company of Cedar Rapids, which ordered a ton of the article at a time. The firm kept on hand an average of 3,000 cans and sufficient quantity of the other necessaries for the manufacture of any quantity required for the trade. Afterwards this concern was bought by Mr. James Wells, who managed it as the Electric Light Baking Powder Company.

The jobbing interests of Independence have played an important part in the business affairs of the city.

Independence has had numerous wholesale houses in the course of its existence and of a more important and substantial character than at first thought. Many of these were only of short duration, but nevertheless were important while they lasted. The Iowa Grocery Company was one of these. It was organized and began business in September, 1895. The incorporators were: T. A. Weins, D. W. Shillinglar, J. W. Langenbach and J. W. Kiefer.

At first the company occupied the double store building and basement opposite the Gedney Hotel, together with the Canning Factory building on the West Side, which served as a warehouse for heavy goods, of which there was always a half dozen or more carloads on hand, and their establishment on Chatham was packed from floor to ceiling with every sort of goods that could possibly be found in a grocery establishment. Everything of staple articles was bought by the carload. D. W. Shillinglar and J. W. Langenbach were the regular repre-

sentatives of the house on the road, besides occasional trips made by others connected with the firm.

Will Bates was bookkeeper and Mike Goodwin shipping clerk. Their principal territory was along the line of the Illinois Central and the B. C. R. & N. and a few towns on the Milwaukee.

This institution was not only a great convenience but a great saving to the Independence and Buchanan County merchants.

Their quarters, becoming too cramped for their steadily increasing business, were moved into King's Opera House.

A combination of two firms, the Woodward Hardware & Dry Goods Store, and the Clarke Grocery Store, was consummated into a department store, known as the Clarke-Woodward Company. The general nature of the business to be transacted was the purchase and sale of general merchandise, and department business. Articles of incorporation were taken out in April, 1896, and the amount of capital stock authorized was \$12,000. The corporation existed for three years, when it was deemed advisable by the directors, W. M. Woodward and R. F. Clarke, to dissolve partnership, when each resumed his former business.

In November, 1899, the transfer of the R. F. Clarke grocery to the West End Grocery Company was effected, which continued the business as conducted before. The company was incorporated; Mr. Clarke retained his interest, and Messrs. Will Reed and C. W. Fiester were the active managers. Mr. Reed retired and C. W. Fiester has since been the manager.

The West End Grocery Company, about the year 1910 or 1911, increased their store room, by removing the walls between the H. W. Hovey Drug Store, and their own, and making it into one large room.

In the spring of 1874, the gas proposition was first presented to the citizens of Independence, by a Chicago company, represented by Frank W. Robinson. The company proposed to establish works in this city and supply the citizens with illuminating gas. The proposal was before the city council for some months, and was discussed pro and con and in every light and angle. Sometimes it was voted down, and then again reconsidered, and finally, at a special meeting of the council, Tuesday evening, September 29, 1874, an arrangement was finally consummated with Mr. Robinson, whereby he and his associates secured an exclusive right to manufacture and sell gas in Independence, for twenty years, with the sole privilege of laying mains in the streets. He was to erect the works for that purpose within one year, lay not less than one mile of main pipes within that period, and extend the same to any street within 100 feet of the main pipes, upon the request of five or more persons desiring to use gas, within six months. He was forbidden to charge more than \$4.50 per 1,000 cubic feet, and when the consumers numbered 300, the price should be reduced to \$4.00. Immediately, prosecution of the enterprise followed, and by December 1st, the works were erected and the piping of all buildings completed. This was a great luxury to the citizens, who had heretofore enjoyed only kerosene lighting. The mains were made of wood, some of which were excavated in about 1904 and were in a good state of preservation. E. Zinn furnished the materials for the plant, and was finally compelled to take it over on his claims.

The plant did not prove highly successful, and in 1879, J. D. Patton installed a plant to produce gas by the J. D. Patton oil gas process. In 1883 he sold the plant to L. V. Tabor, R. Campbell, George Warne, and Jones and Hovey, who afterwards purchased the original electric light plant and incorporated the Independence Gas & Electric Company.

This company operated for a number of years without a franchise. At one time the city council had about decided to submit a proposition to the voters to grant a franchise, which provided for a per cent of the gross income to be paid the city, but when informed of the income, the council determined the license would be too small to consider.

In 1913, however, a franchise, conditioned on the plant being moved outside of the fire limits of the city, was voted, and immediately after, another election was called to permit the erection of the plant at its present location, which carried. The company then installed the present plant.

The first gas light from the new gas works was furnished at King's Opera House, on Thursday eve, September 16, 1880. The occasion was a ball given by the Wilson and Garner Quadrille Band. Mr. King was the first to have his building piped for gas, and public entertainment will henceforth enjoy the advantage of being seen in a better light. Six of the long-promised street lamps were in position and doing business the last of October, 1880; three more lights were to be installed. This was wonderful luxury. Lamps were lighted one hour after sunset when there was no moonlight, and when the moon shone, the lamps were lighted one hour before it set and lights were extinguished an hour before sunrise.

These regulations were carefully followed, and in some respects surpassed our present service, since lights are extinguished at midnight. The enterprise started with about twenty consumers.

In the summer of 1892, was also built the Rush Park Electric Street Railway. The board of supervisors granted the right of way for the Main Street bridge and along the route outside of the city limits, and that removed the last possible obstacle to the speedy construction of the railway. This concession contemplates two tracks across the bridge, and required that the track west of the Burlington Depot should be located not more than twenty-three feet from the north line of the wagon road. It extended from the Central Depot to the hospital.

The Main Street road was widened on the south side and graded to make the descent to the lower level less abrupt. Another project to relieve the pressure of travel by teams on the main road, was by consent of a highway, forty rods north of the main road and commencing at the railroad, thence west, through W. D. Ham's land, the right of way of which Mr. Williams had purchased, and up to the southwest corner of the W. E. Rosemond ten acres, now owned by Ledyard Freeman; thence north, 40 rods; thence west, past the Walker place and Bon Air farm, now owned by J. L. Cilley, to the road running southwest of Mr. Mill's residence, by which it again joins the main road. This road was in line with the street upon which the waterworks was located, and practically made a new street, from the river, to the northwest corner of Rush Park, and was a favorite route of those who wished to avoid the street car and the crowd.

Mr. Williams purchased a 100-horsepower, high-speed steam engine, to run the dynamos for the electric railway and power plant, and three sixty-horsepower, steel boilers, each fourteen feet long, and which were placed in the building on the alley, in the rear of the Gedney Hotel, and provided with a brick chimney stack seventy-five feet high.

In the spring of 1892, Mr. C. W. Williams decided to build in the City of Independence an electric trolley system. The city granted him a franchise within the city limits. The route was proposed to be from the Illinois Central Depot, down Chatham Street, along Main Street across the bridge, and westerly nearly to the residence of J. L. Weeks, and then southward, to the hospital for the insane. Inside the city limits, the road was to be laid in the middle of the street, and outside of the city, the track was to be laid at the side of the road; a single track all the way, without switches.

The cost of putting the project into operation was figured at \$40,000. The power plant was to be situated in the rear of the Gedney Hotel, and these buildings were to be heated by the exhaust steam from the boilers. It was thought to put the line into operation by July 4, 1892.

A special meeting of the city council was held on April 14th to consider Mr. Williams' proposition. The latter declared himself ready to build, equip and operate a street railway in this city, and desired the passage of an ordinance which the city might agree upon.

At their meeting the next Monday evening, the council presented the ordinance, which was satisfactory to Mr. Williams. A citizens' meeting was also held, in which thanks were extended to Mr. Williams for his interest.

Work on the new street railway began on Monday, May 16, 1892, and the first load of ties was distributed at the end of Chatham Street, and a force of about twenty men began shovelling dirt at that point. The ties came from Wisconsin, and other supplies were brought in from day to day. By September the line was in full operation, following the route first planned. It was run by the electric trolley system with three cars.

In the winter of 1905 the Gedney Company decided to cut out the street car line—it not proving profitable. After that it was run only periodically, and when the question of paving from the Central to the Rock Island Depot came up in 1906 the controversy as to who should pay the price proved a vital issue, and one that finally lost Independence, their first, last and only street car unless the town has another boom or the state concludes to build a line to the hospital. In 1905 when the first paving was put in on Main Street, the street car company stood its share of the expense, but with the extended paving they felt the business done by the company did not warrant them this extra expense. The company agreed to maintain the line if the city or the resident owners would pay for the paving which they would have to build (between the rails and a foot on either side) but this they would not do. The state was appealed to, on account of its convenience to the insane hospital, but to no avail and the track was finally taken up and all that remains of our once glorified past is a few pleasant memories and evidences that time has not yet obliterated or crumbled to decay. The dilapidated remains of the old street cars, some five or six in number, skeletons of their former pride and glory now grace the east bank of the river, in close proximity to some old barns and



ORIGINAL LINCOLN BUILDING



sheds, in a state of utter disruption, and we would suggest that the Civic Improvement Society or some kind friend plant ivy over their dismantled carcasses.

An insurance company was incorporated in Independence, November 9, 1860, with an authorized capital of \$1,000,000. Its membership included many of the most prominent citizens of the county. It flourished for several years and was largely patronized by the farmers, but the hard times and panics of war times finally sent the organization to the wall and many who had insured (for a period of years) suffered heavy losses.

At first it was considered a splendid, trustworthy institution and the county papers and the papers all over the state were loud in their praise of its liberality and fine management, but like many another equally as sound an institution, it could not withstand continual reverses. In 1869 it had \$25,000 paid up capital. Actual capital was \$100,000.

In 1869 an effort was made by Doctor Bryant to reorganize the Independence Insurance Company, which organization was effected, but in 1870 the directors unanimously decided to retire from the business and transferred their business to the Lamar Company of Chicago. Doctor Bryant was the president and James Weart the secretary of the old company.

A few years prior to the year 1880, the farmers of Buchanan County were paying the old-line insurance companies too much for the protection received; therefore, in order to remedy this, after much thought and discussion, the plan of organizing mutual companies was adopted. The result of this agitation was the organization of two mutual companies in 1879, one under the name of Farmers Mutual Insurance Company; the other under the name of Patrons Mutual Insurance Company. In the latter company only members of the order of the Patrons of Husbandry could become members.

Both companies did a large and prosperous business and continued so to do until the year 1894, when the leading members of both companies came to the conclusion that inasmuch as both companies had the same object in view, namely, cheap and reliable insurance, it would be more profitable and also eliminate part of the expense if the two companies were united, and in pursuance thereof each company named a committee to form a plan of consolidation, said committee being T. S. Cameron, N. M. Miguet, and Lyman J. Curtis of the Patrons, and A. P. Mills, H. F. Miller and Theodore Kirsch of the Farmers company, and after careful consideration of all questions involved, said committee submitted a plan, which was adopted by each company, whereby the two companies were united under the name of the Consolidated Patrons and Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Buchanan County, Iowa, August 9, 1894, with Lyman J. Curtis, president; William Decker, secretary; and R. B. Raines, treasurer.

The following have held the office of president: Mr. Curtis, Robert Elvidge, E. A. Chapman, C. E. Boyack and J. E. Brame. Mr. Brame was elected in 1908.

George M. Vincent was elected secretary in 1908 to succeed William Decker. Mr. Raines has held the office of treasurer continuously to the present time.

The articles of incorporation expired August 9, 1914, and were renewed for twenty years, or until August 9, 1934; the name of the company was changed to the Farmers Mutual Insurance Association of Buchanan County, Iowa.

The company has certainly fulfilled the mission for which it was organized. It is now one of the largest and strongest mutual companies in the state, and now has over three and a half million dollars in risks.

H. D. Kelley, late superintendent of the Vinton Canning Factory, came to Independence in March, 1892, for the purpose of endeavoring to interest the business men in the project of establishing a similar enterprise here, but met with indifferent success and returned to Vinton discouraged, but upon due consideration a company was immediately organized with a capital of \$50,000 and a canning factory was erected, the superintendency of which was offered to and accepted by Mr. Kelley.

The canning factory was built in 1894 at a cost of \$8,000, but after a year or two of struggling existence it closed down and stood idle for a couple of seasons because there was not capital enough to run it and because it was found impracticable to can tomatoes in this section. It was sold at sheriff's sale. The machinery for canning tomatoes was removed and machinery for canning corn was installed. Immediately upon the reorganization of the company the work of remodeling the plant began and \$10,000 was spent on improvements.

The Independence Canning Company was reorganized in Independence, January, 1898. The following officers were elected: President, Jacob Wackerbarth; vice-president, Thomas Edwards; secretary, J. E. Cook; treasurer, Thomas Blamer. Board of directors: Jacob Wackerbarth, Thomas Edwards, J. E. Cook, Thomas Blamer, Albert Leytze, George T. Blamer and Horace Kelley. The capital stock of the company was \$10,000. Mr. Kelley had the active management of the plant and was a practical man with wide experience in the details of the business.

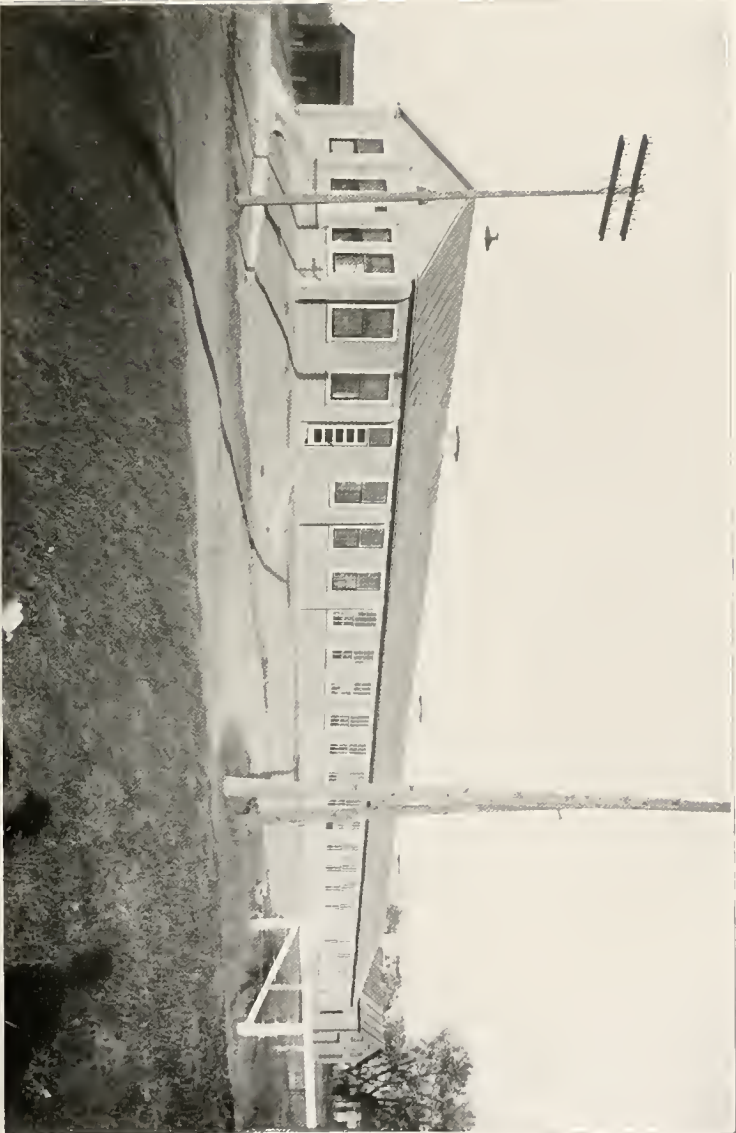
The factory usually begins operations the last of August and continues for from four to six weeks and their output is from one million to one million five hundred thousand cans and generally their product finds a ready market. During the season about one hundred people are employed. A silo, large husking cribs and the latest improved machinery have been added from time to time, which make of it one of the finest equipped in this part of the state. It is estimated that it costs twenty thousand dollars to operate the plant.

The Rush Park Seed Company, one of the largest seed depots in the West, was organized and incorporated in November, 1889, twenty-five years ago, and went into the seed business on a comparatively small scale, occupying one store building on Chatham Street, opposite the postoffice. The next year after organizing, their business had increased to such an extent that they were compelled to greatly enlarge their facilities, then occupying the three floors of the building.

The incorporators were: M. L. Webster, C. W. Williams, and Thomas Blamer, but soon the stock passed into the hands of a different management—as follows: Dan S. Jones, president; M. L. Webster, manager; and James O. Littlejohn, secretary and treasurer.

The growth and success of the Rush Park Seed Company was phenomenal and unprecedented in the history of the seed business and steadily increased with no special effort on the part of the management outside the good business management and indomitable energy that characterizes the firm. While yet it was a young concern, it did as much business as the best of its competitors, and in





CANNING FACTORY, INDEPENDENCE



fact, furnished nearly as many seed packets on a straight out and out sale as all the others combined. This fact can be attributed solely to the fact that its method of doing business has met the approval of the business men to whom it has looked for support and also to the fact that its seeds have been of such high quality that the firm built up for itself such an enviable reputation.

Its 1896 catalogue comprised an edition of 8,000 copies—sixty pages fully illustrated while the 1895 edition was only a 6,000 20-page pamphlet. They employed a force of seven traveling salesmen, who covered a territory comprising the seven or eight states surrounding Iowa and many of the southern states. Twenty-four people were employed in the house. The company had about three thousand regular customers and put out about five thousand cases of packet seeds besides several carloads of loose seeds sold in bulk, some shipments of a carload to a customer. An average of 1,600,000 packages, 6,000 bu. peas, beans and corn, 6 tons of turnip seed, 3 tons onion seed, 3 tons beet seed, 2 tons pumpkin seed, 2½ tons radish, 2 tons melon and squash, 1½ tons cabbage and 1½ tons cucumber seed. These are but sample figures and all other seeds run in proportionally large figures, and large quantities of field grains: timothy, clover, millet, buckwheat, etc., are also handled.

The Rush Park Seed Company received numerous very tempting offers from larger cities to remove their plant and business from Independence, and seriously contemplated accepting some offer; however, as the homes of all the members of the company were here, they would forego the undoubted advantages offered elsewhere, if the people of Independence would donate them a suitable building lot and exempt them from taxation for ten years. A motion was made at the council meeting that a resolution be adopted recommending the proposition to the favorable consideration of the citizens. A council committee was appointed to act in connection with a citizens' committee. A diligent canvass was made, and the committees secured on a basis of the erection of an \$3,000 or \$10,000 building, subscriptions aggregating \$850, which could be increased to \$1,000 if necessary. The company wanted the Rookery site, 40 by 165 ft., but the exorbitant price asked placed it out of reach. H. E. Palmer offered to give the corner lot north of Joslin's store, five by ten rods, to the company, if they would build on it, and would sell the lot north for \$500. The company finally accepted a proposition of ten by ten rods and a bonus of \$500 cash, with which they bought the lots north of those donated and began immediately to erect a \$6,000 building. The Council did not exempt the company from taxes, but reduced the amount.

In July, 1897, the company's mammoth building was burned to the ground, a total loss amounting to \$14,000, but the next day a temporary office was in readiness and business was resumed. A new building arose phoenix-like, and in a short time all effects of the conflagration were completely wiped out, and a larger, more complete, and convenient edifice was in its place.

The building is three stories high in addition to the basement and has a floor capacity of 23,520 square feet.

In May, 1897, M. L. Webster, who had been connected with the Rush Park Seed Company since its organization, sold his interest to D. S. Jones and J. O. Littlejohn and those gentlemen became equal partners in the establishment, and Mr. Webster started a seed business at the original location of the Rush Park

Seed Company. For a number of years he operated a farm just south of Independence, where he raised a considerable amount of seeds. He later again became interested in the Rush Park Seed Company and is now the business manager of both concerns, which now operate branches in Waco, Texas. In September, 1914, he removed to Waco to look after those branches and left the Independence Seed House in charge of his son, Mr. Howard Webster.

People's Ice Company was organized in November, 1904. The following officers were elected: President, J. N. Barr; vice president, C. W. Stites; secretary, George W. Cameron; treasurer, Jay Smith. The directors were J. N. Barr, C. W. Stites, George Cameron, A. Hageman, David Kaplan, J. B. Allen and Jay Smith. Over one hundred stockholders were secured. The company purchased the Hayford residence property on the river bank in the Fourth Ward and commenced immediately to erect a large icehouse thereon. The building is thirty-six by eighty feet long.

The People's Ice Company was organized in opposition to the Independence Ice Company, and for a time the two companies did business, but after a year or two the Independence Company got the control of the stock of the People's Ice Company and leased the property to the Independence Ice Company, who now operate it, and the company has the distinction of being the one big trust in Independence.

In the summer of 1909 Sherman-Smith Gasoline Engine Company moved to Independence from Stanley and immediately began the erection of a new factory north of the Illinois Central tracks. They put up a large cement building 36 by 200 feet in dimension, and installed an equipment which would do effective service for the business they anticipated. Some sixteen or eighteen lathes and other machines were to be put in operation and a force of eighteen to twenty-five men are kept constantly busy and often as high as one hundred are employed. The company manufactured engines of all sizes, ranging from 11½ to 20 horsepower. The building was completed and ready for business in August, 1909. Mr. H. E. Neteott was the architect and Mr. George Neteott secured the building contract.

Their plant includes the mammoth machine room where there was installed the lathes, and a stock room where the various parts of the complete engines are kept ready to be put together when needed, and an office, drafting room and painting room, and all other needed separate places in the main structure. A separate building located immediately east of the factory is used as a carpenter shop and store room. The buildings are electric lighted and during the past season were kept in operation day and night, working ten-hour shifts.

A new engine adapted to pumping purposes was to be manufactured. Mr. J. W. Smith was the inventor of this new engine. The company had been manufacturing the gasoline engine at Stanley for the previous two years with much success. The heavy demand for the product was such it was found necessary to seek larger quarters with greater equipment and a town where the railroad facilities were first class. For that reason negotiations were entered into and necessary arrangements were made for the removal of the plant to this city. Mr. Smith superintended the mechanical end of the establishment and Mr. Sherman the business department. Robert McGivern was traveling

salesman. All of these and other employees of the company removed to this city from Stanley.

The concern was re-organized, but did not prove a success and the plant was finally leased to the Enterprise Engine Company of Waterloo.

Independence, at the present writing—November, 1914—is enjoying unbounded prosperity, not of the frothy, bubbleburst and effervescing variety which it once endured, but a substantial, steady development, which is bound to continue. Not since the year 1892 has there been so much building and general improvement.

Something like fifty houses have been erected in the city during the past summer and all of them fine, up-to-date dwellings.

Houses for rent are at a premium and property was never valued so high. There are about twenty-four blocks of paving already in and more contemplated, a fine municipal lighting and water works system, the very best of public schools, one of the finest and best equipped high schools in the state for the size of the city, with an enrollment exceeding many larger cities.

Main Street is one of the best kept and most attractive streets in the state—the store buildings are all of uniform style and up to date. The street is paved during its entire length, has wide cement walks, and in the business section five globe electroliers have been installed and brilliantly light the thoroughfare. Besides electric lighting, a splendid private gas plant is in operation. One of the finest blocks in the city is now in process of construction, called the Wise Block. This block is two stories high, about 83 feet wide, and 100 feet long. It will be occupied when finished by a new dry goods firm, a beautiful little moving picture theater, which is already in operation, a modern barber shop, and on the second floor by the Bulletin Journal office.

Independence has several factories in more or less flourishing condition, and all the merchants are prosperous.

And last, but by no means least, as indicative of the city's prosperity is the fact that three "movie" shows are doing a thriving business.

In 1891, Thomas Sherwood, city assessor, received a letter from the census department asking for information concerning the number and value of buildings in Independence. Mr. Sherwood gave considerable time and careful attention to the work and his report shows some interesting items. He found 640 dwelling houses estimated at an average value of \$1,000, making a total valuation of \$640,000. That there were 169 business buildings valued at \$1,060,000, making a total valuation of the buildings in Independence \$1,700,000.

In the American Poultry Journal appeared an article written by I. K. Felch, a man whose judgment in poultry matters was respected in all parts of the United States. In speaking of the poultry exhibition held in Buchanan County in 1891, he said: "The word 'Independence' in the Horse World is synonymous with Axtell and Allerton and the price of the former was \$105,000, a larger stand for the latter, but if we are to judge by the exhibitions in poultry, the breeders in and about the town are losing nothing by the example set them by the horse breeders of that section. I am free to say, having judged their last two exhibits, that Iowa is destined to rival other states for poultry stocks." He said that he found at Independence some of the best pens of the finest breeds of certain kinds of chickens that he had ever judged. The sale

of turkeys in the town was positively immense. It was said that \$1,800 was paid out for turkeys one day during the fair, while a like sum is some days paid for eggs, they having one of the largest egg-packing establishments in the state.

The Register and Leader gave Independence a royal send off in an editorial in February, 1891, as follows: "It can be safely said that the American Trotter will be a successful and valuable newspaper to horsemen. Everything goes at Independence. The bustling young city is rushing at a two-minute gait. We will sustain the Register's prophecy that Independence will be a city of greater population and business than Dubuque. Independence worships the horse; Dubuque the saloon."

These items were just picked from columns of items clipped from other papers all over the country.

On February 22, 1905, the merchants of Independence organized for the purpose of promoting the business interests of the community. An enthusiastic meeting was held and the "Independence Mercantile Association" was the result of the organization perfected on that occasion. The primary cause for the birth of the organization was the desire to establish a creamery in Independence for the benefit of the farmers as well as for the advantages to be derived by the citizens. A stock company for that object was organized.

The following list of officers were elected: President, R. G. Swan; vice president, W. M. Woodward; treasurer, H. L. Frank. The executive committee comprised the officers augmented by A. J. Allen and C. L. Fiester.





COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING—COURTHOUSE AND COUNTY JAIL, INDEPENDENCE



## CHAPTER XXV

### THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

PUBLIC BUILDINGS—POSTOFFICE—FIRE COMPANIES—WATERWORKS—ELECTRIC  
LIGHTS—STREET PAVING—PARKS—THE STREETS RENAMED—  
MAYORS OF INDEPENDENCE

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The first building used for a courthouse was a small wooden structure standing at the corner of Main and Court streets. This was in 1847. The small, dingy front room was used as the county clerk's office and courtroom while the back end was occupied by Dr. Brewer, the first county clerk, and his family.

The first court was held in the log cabin of Rufus B. Clark. This cabin stood just north of where the Gedney now stands, in the middle of the street which was at one time called Mott Street. The second term of court was held in the store room of William Brazelton, then in a small building erected for a school house, and in various other places until the completion of the present courthouse in 1857, where it has since been held. This building cost about ten thousand dollars.

Later this building proved too small to hold all of the offices of the county officers and it was proposed to build another building. The first calaboose was a frame building located north of what is now the McClernon Block on Main Street, just east of Walnut Street.

At one time the jail was situated in the basement under the Curtis livery barn, then later in the small wooden building back of the city fire department house on East Main Street used as a calaboose and jail. In 1869, at the general election a proposal to build a jail was submitted to the voters and carried by a majority of 1,405 for, to 264 against. In 1870 the present jail and sheriff's house was built at a cost of \$18,828. The original arrangement of the jail had a row of cells at the north side, but jail deliveries were so frequent that in 1897 the cells were removed and a steel eage put in.

At the general election in 1880, the proposition to expend \$7,500 of the swamp fund to build a fireproof building was presented and carried by a vote of 2,155 for, to 615 against. This building was completed in 1881. It was constructed of fireproof material and is now occupied by the county officers.

#### THE INDEPENDENCE POSTOFFICE

The second year after the settlement of Independence in 1848, a postoffice was established and S. P. Stoughton was the first postmaster. He held the

office but a short time when Dr. E. Brewer succeeded him and continued in that capacity for about nine years.

During the first two or three years the emoluments did not exceed one dollar and twenty-five cents a quarter. The mail was often carried in the vest pocket of the postmaster.

In 1857, Lorenzo Moore, a democrat, succeeded Brewer. Judging from the fact that Dr. Brewer was a whig and a republican, it is evident that he received the appointment because of his fitness for the place and the commission was so small that politics did not enter into the matter until Moore received the appointment. Mr. Moore held the office until 1861 when he resigned and T. B. Bullen succeeded him. Bullen must have been a democrat, for Jacob Rich succeeded him some time during the same year, soon after the inauguration of President Lincoln.

Jacob Rich received a second appointment, but during President Johnson's administration he was removed.

He was the only postmaster at Independence ever removed for any cause other than political—and yet politics entered largely into the matter. Rich was in Washington most of the time and was very bitter in his attacks on the president. A petition was circulated in Independence and signed by a large number of persons who demanded a resident postmaster which, with Rich's venom toward the President was ample reason for Johnson to order his removal.

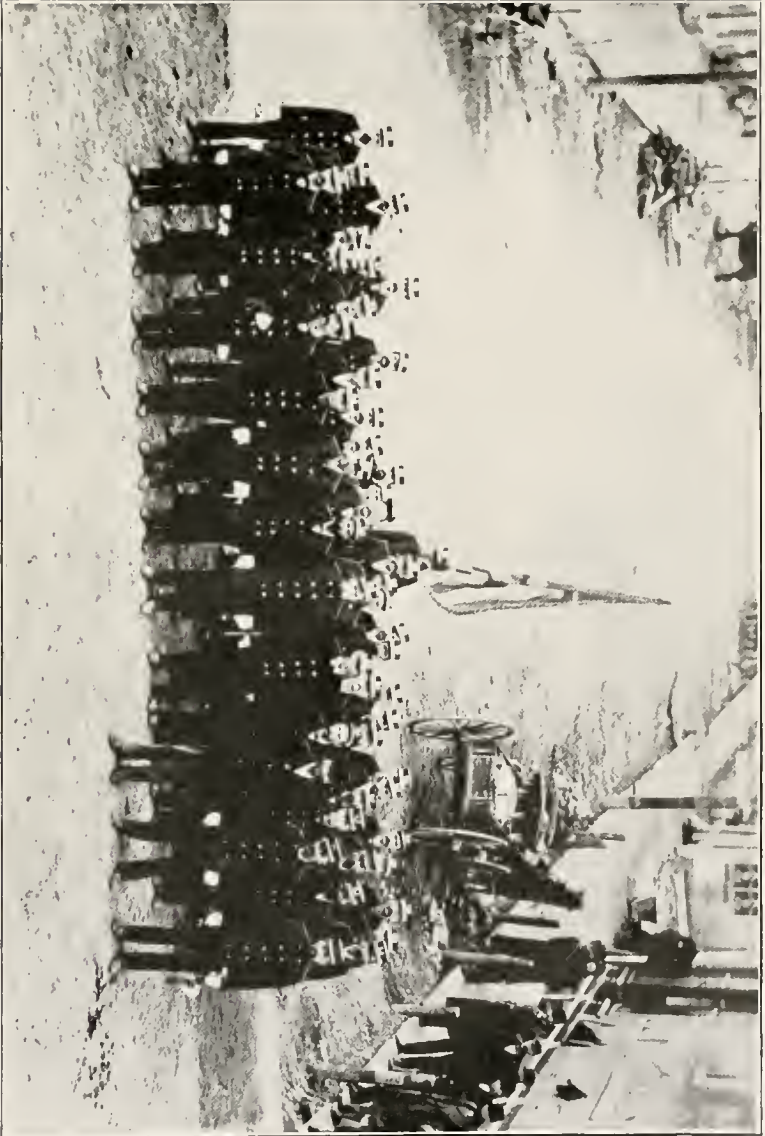
Captain E. C. Little succeeded Mr. Rich in 1866 and held the office until his death on April 18, 1874, from which time until June 16th of that year O. D. Burr acted as postmaster.

On June 17, 1874, J. L. Loomis took charge of the office and continued until August 19, 1876, when he resigned and William Toman was appointed and held the office until January 10, 1885, at which time David Donnan was appointed and on the advent of President Cleveland's first administration was succeeded by L. W. Goen on March 4, 1888. That was before civil service had advanced to any material extent and on the return of republicans Mr. Goen was succeeded by A. H. Farwell on February 19, 1891, who held the office four years, when Cleveland was again in and appointed W. H. Chamberlain on March 1, 1895.

During Mr. Farwell's administration the office was removed from the building now occupied by C. A. McEwen's drug store to the present location. The office had been in the building now occupied by A. S. Cobb before moving into the Leytze Block.

It was also during Mr. Farwell's term that the office became one of the second class and free city delivery was installed with two carriers, on December 1, 1892. Mr. Chamberlain was succeeded by Stephen Tabor on April 1, 1899, who was the only postmaster whose selection was determined by a vote of the patrons of the office affiliating with the party in power.

While Mr. Chamberlain was postmaster an attempt was made to rob the office. The safe was an old fashioned affair with a large bar of iron across the front, secured by a big padlock. This padlock was blown to pieces, but the robbers failed to get into the safe. They stole what change was in the drawer and a few stamps.



INDEPENDENCE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, 1882



Stephen Tabor held the office until his death, August 5, 1903, and was succeeded by his widow, Anna Tabor.

During Mr. Tabor's administration free rural delivery was established with one carrier on February 15, 1899. The number of carriers was increased to eight on July 16, 1902, and afterwards on September 1, 1907, reduced to seven, which is the present number.

Mrs. Tabor held the office until March 10, 1909, when she was succeeded by H. C. Chappell.

During Mr. Chappell's administration the postal savings bank was instituted on August 26, 1911, and parcel post on January 1, 1913. The post-office was rearranged and many new fixtures installed.

In March, 1913, President Wilson was inaugurated and A. T. O'Brien, a democrat, received the appointment on August 15, 1913.

The receipts of the office for the year ending June 30, 1914, were \$18,585.37. There are now employed in the office, besides the postmaster, an assistant postmaster, J. C. Iekel; clerks, F. J. Iekel, A. B. Stout, Orin Primus, Raymond Stout; city carriers, C. J. Friedman (who was one of the original carriers and is now the patriarch of the office), R. H. Stannard, D. F. Black and W. H. Sackett, and rural carriers, J. A. Bechter, N. R. Norton, H. A. Hallett, J. L. McDonald, J. W. Griffith, T. H. Hill and S. E. Lindsay, and J. C. Bates, mail messenger, and it is safe to say that no postoffice in the county has a more efficient, able and courteous force than has Independence.

It appears that in 1869 the United States Post Office Department furnished but one mail a day and the railroad company carried the second, or night mail, free, only stipulating that towns along the route provide carriage to and from the trains.

Captain Little, postmaster of Independence, solicited subscriptions from business men and those benefited. Liberal and prompt action should be taken, for upon his success depended its continuance.

#### FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

After the occurrence of a severe fire in Independence in 1864 the grave necessity of having some more successful means with which to combat the fiery elements was fully appreciated and straightway some of the public-spirited citizens proceeded to organize a hook and ladder company. At their first meeting in March, 1864, they elected the following officers: Foreman, Ransom Bartle; first assistant foreman, C. F. Leavitt; second assistant foreman, R. M. Chesley; secretary, J. M. Weart; treasurer, J. F. Hodges; steward, A. J. Bowley; member of executive committee, J. B. Donnan. Immediately measures were taken to raise funds to buy a fire apparatus. All sorts of public entertainments were given whereby to create a fund and, like the town bell, for months it was the absorbing interest and object of all public benefits. The firemen were the instigators and moving spirit for all public affairs. They had charge of the Fourth of July celebrations, which were always a pronounced success, and of Washington's birthday celebration in 1865. Finally the funds were sufficient to buy an engine.

They expended \$525 for an engine, hooks, ladders, and hose.

In the spring of 1862 a hook and ladder company, Fire Company No. 2, was organized. They built a truck house near the old bell tower adjoining the house of Company 1. This house is now used as a store-house back of the wigwam.

Every night fire drills were held for the purpose of perfecting themselves in marching and parade duty.

They bought a big Cataract hand engine which cost \$1,000, and 400 feet of hose. Louis Soener was foreman and Adolph Leytze, Sr., secretary. The old hand Cataract engine was also in service during the big fire and was placed on the east bank of the river south of the Main Street Bridge, but was disabled by the collapse of the Wilcox Building, which cut off the hose.

The old "Cataract" engine, which did such good service during the big fire, was, after Independence got through with it, sold to Earlville. It was an unwieldy affair and required a small regiment of men to move and operate, but it did some good work in its day and was a prize winner at the tournaments. It was constructed in 1852 and was used in Philadelphia for a long time and also in Peoria, Illinois, before Independence got it, and several other places owned it before Earlville came into possession of it.

It was yet in a good state of preservation when Earlville sold it to the Howe Pump and Engine Company of Indianapolis, Indiana.

#### THE INDEPENDENCE STEAMER COMPANY

In the city election in March, 1873, the proposition to establish a city library and to purchase a steam fire engine were both decided in the affirmative, the first project by a majority which was a compliment to the intelligence and public spirit of the citizens, and the last none too soon for the engine purchased arrived just in time to do effective work at the fire. Several engines were tried and finally a Clapp & Jones engine was purchased.

The Independence Steamer Company No. 1 was organized in 1874. H. R. Hunter was foreman; James Forrester, secretary; B. W. Tabor, treasurer; and L. M. Stevens, foreman of hose.

The steamer engine used by this company was purchased by money subscribed from the citizens and money which was gotten from public entertainments, dances, public dinners, and other forms of entertainments. This engine for many years held the record and had the distinction of never having been beaten in getting up steam from cold water and throwing water 100 feet. This engine did service for many years and the last time it was in use was at the fire in the W. A. Jones stockyards, situated by the South Bridge, the water being pumped from the river where the Second Street Bridge is now located. This old engine made its last public appearance in the parade during the street carnival in 1899. This engine was sold to the W. S. Knott Company, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, for 800 feet of hose.

The first appearance of this engine was at the big fire of 1874. This engine had been sent here for trial and at this time stood on the flat car at the Illinois Central Depot and was brought downtown and placed on the river bank by the Klotzbach barn and when started in operation it was run without any steam or water gauge by Mr. A. D. Guernsey. This was a very hazardous undertaking

and proved Mr. Guernsey to have been a true hero. Probably this daring feat saved the city many thousands of dollars of loss.

This engine was entered in numerous contests throughout the state and always was victorious. Instead of the laurel wreath the old engine brought home a broom, and had received numerous valuable money prizes. The members of the company comprised the foremost citizens of the town, were finely uniformed, expending something like one thousand dollars on their regalia. On June 15, 1885, the Independence Steamer Company went out of existence and the company voted to change its name to the C. M. Durham Steamer Company. This company and the Cataract Company were located at the engine house on Main Street, and Fourth Avenue S. E.

#### THE BOYS' WAPSIE HAND ENGINE CO.

The steamer engine and old hand Cataract engine proving so heavy and unwieldy, the idea was conceived to make a smaller hand engine that could be quickly drawn to fires and in through gates for the purpose of rendering aid until a larger apparatus could be placed in position, to act as a sort of first aid. This company was known as the Boys' Wapsie Hand Engine Company.

The engine was built about the year 1878 by William and Bernard Yeager and Frank Megow, and was painted by Miss Rosie Otto.

The company was composed of boys ranging in age from ten to fifteen years. The first money for the purchase of this engine was made from the sale of old bones and contributions from the citizens for services rendered. It was stored in a shed on the ground now occupied by the Wise Block.

The members comprised A. T. O'Brien, Dan O'Brien, Louis C. Soener, George Soener, C. L. King, Frank Yeager, Zion Litts, Chris Seeland and Charles Leytze.

The engine was later sold for junk for \$5.00, and the wheels were used by Charles Robinson for a buggy. This engine, though small, did excellent service and would throw water 75 to 100 feet.

#### HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY

After the Second Ward Schoolhouse fire the need of a hook and ladder company was very apparent and steps were immediately taken by the city to purchase a hook and ladder truck, which they did of L. M. Rumsey, of New York.

A meeting was held at the office of Hunter & Forrester, February 17, 1883, at which a company was organized to operate the truck. C. A. McEwen was elected foreman; S. B. Hovey, secretary, and W. H. Jacobs, treasurer.

The truck was stored in the Lee Building on East Main Street, now occupied by the Jones & Raymond garage. Upon the reorganization of the fire department, in 1887, it was moved to the engine house on Main Street at the corner of Main and Fifth Avenue.

This company made an enviable record at the Dubuque State Fire Tournament, being beaten for first money by one-fifth of a second. In 1897 the truck was overhauled and a Seagrave truck ladder and chemical fire extinguisher being added.

This company, on account of the natty appearance of their light grey uniforms and the large and heavy truck which they used as the "Dude runners with the jumbo truck."

#### THE EXCELSIOR HOSE COMPANY

At a meeting held May 17, 1887, the Warne Hose Company came into existence. The meeting was called for the purpose of organizing a west side hose company. Ira B. King was elected foreman; Carl Goodwin, secretary, and L. S. Lyon, treasurer.

After various names had been submitted the one above was selected. The company was known as the Warne until a special meeting, March 9, 1889, when the present name, The Excelsior Hose Company, was substituted, and has ever since been in existence.

On May 8th of that year the Excelsior Hose Company elected their first officers, with Ira King foreman; S. G. Curtis, secretary, and L. S. Lyon, treasurer.

This company was quartered in a barn on the ground now occupied by the J. E. Moore residence in the Fifth Ward, later being transferred to the hose house on Main Street, west of the Presbyterian Church.

#### THE A. D. GUERNSEY HOSE COMPANY

The A. D. Guernsey Hose Company was organized May 17, 1887. H. R. Marinus was elected foreman; William Opie, treasurer, and Ernest Leytze, secretary.

In June, 1895, the fire department decided to take part in the State Firemen's Tournament at Vinton. The company was organized and sent under the name of the A. D. Guernsey Hose Company. They were successful in winning the first money in the amateur class and equaling the state record of forty-five seconds. Waldron, the leader, winning the leaders' race of 300 yards in 31 3/5 seconds. At first it was quartered in the engine house on East Main Street, then was removed to a house adjoining Joslinville, and later the house and company were moved to Third Avenue Northeast, north of the old high school.

#### THE CLIPPER HOSE COMPANY

The Clipper Hose Company was organized May 6, 1887. John F. Iekel was elected foreman; Charles L. King, secretary, and Louis C. Soener, treasurer. This company is quartered in the engine house on East Main Street. It has taken part in a number of state tournaments.

In 1912 a chemical hand engine was added to the company and placed in the engine house.

On March 5, 1901, two fire alarms were sounded for two different fires at the same time, this being the only instance in the history of Independence.

The department has had fourteen chiefs, T. J. Marinus being the first, and the present chief is E. W. Raymond.

Each company draws \$75.00 a year from the city, the chief's salary being \$100.00. The hose companies comprise eighteen members each and the hook and ladder company has twenty-five members.



The Guernsey Hose Company used the old Steamer cart and the Clipper Company used the old Catarack, both of which were home made, the Excelsior Company taking the reserve cart of the Steamer Company. This cart was an elaborate affair with four wheels, finished in white enamel and gold.

These carts were later replaced by a lighter and new two-wheeled carts.

The first fire alarms were given by the old town bell. By a vote of the citizens this was discontinued and the steam waterworks whistle was voted to be used for that purpose.

#### WATERWORKS

During the city election of 1885, this question was submitted to the voters, "Shall the city council contract for a system of waterworks at an expense not exceeding \$2,500 per year?" The proposition carried by a vote of eighty-five majority.

At a meeting on July 12th of this year, the resolution was adopted. At a special meeting of the council on July 28th the committee who had visited Fort Dodge and Mason City reported favorable to the bonding of the city in the sum of \$27,900. This report was adopted and the necessary ordinance was enacted. At a meeting of the council held on August 9th, a resolution was adopted authorizing the purchase from Tom Palmer of the lot on the west bank of the river, just above the flouring mill, for the sum of \$250.

For several days the council debated upon the question and the contract for engines, pumps, and boilers was finally let to the National Iron & Brass Works, of Dubuque, the same guaranteed by a bond issue of \$10,000. The contract for the water mains was let to Denison & Cowell of Muscatine, for \$25,420, and the Dubuque National Iron & Brass Works secured the contract for the machinery.

The contract for the foundation of the building was let to M. J. Baker, the work to be completed by September 15, 1886, and Mr. George Netcott received the contract to build the 75 foot high smokestack and building.

On August 25th the council passed an ordinance repealing the ordinance to bond the city for \$27,900 and fixed the bond at \$40,000. About the middle of September the work of filling in the lot with stone and earth was begun.

In the spring of 1887 this work was completed. The lot was leveled up, sown with grass seed and planted with trees. In October, A. D. Guernsey was given charge of the placing of the drive well system from which the water supply is derived. These drive well points were sunk in a bed of gravel underlying a great pressure, on the west side. The water is pure and soft. The gravel serves as a natural filter.

The pumping engines were supplied by the National Iron & Brass Works of Dubuque and were of the Smedley duplex pattern and were the first of their kind built west of the Mississippi.

Before the middle of the summer the pumps were ready for fire service and private consumers were supplied without charge until May 1st. The rates of water supply to consumers were very low.

The waterworks were entirely owned by the city and were under the control of the council. The works came under the direct supervision of the

water commissioners, three members of the council. The first commissioners for the waterworks were Hugh McClernon, Mel L. Webster, and F. B. Bonniwell.

The city council at its adjourned meeting October 18, 1905, received the report of the committee that the Stewart lots west of the city plant had been purchased for \$300. The bid of the Smedley Company, at Dubuque, to furnish the material necessary to drive well work for \$958.50 was accepted. The new system of water supply was sunk to a depth of twenty-five to seventy-five feet in the Stewart lots, according as experiments showed the best water supply to be secured. This system has proven very successful other places and it was contemplated that it would insure a water supply to meet all emergencies and that the river suction would never be reinstated. The total expense of the change was estimated at \$2,000 which insured a constant and reliable supply of water for all needs.

The largest users of water from the city waterworks is the State Insane Hospital, which uses up to sixty thousand gallons daily. Three or four years ago an addition was built on and new machinery installed which greatly improved the service. The pumps were changed from steam to electric power in 1907 and are now operated by power generated in the electric light plant.

On August 11, 1908, when the Wapsiepinicon Mill and Power Company bought the plant they began immediately to erect a fine concrete dam to replace the old wooden structure which had been in use for so many years, and was always in a state of dilapidation, from the continuous patching and repatching. Work was begun in the spring of 1908, and on January 8, 1909, the gates were placed in position and closed and on January 24, the water poured over the milldam for the first time in months, while the dam was in process of construction. It took just fifteen days and twelve hours to fill the mill pond.

#### ELECTRIC LIGHTS

On September 26, 1889, J. P. Smith proposed to establish the first electric light plant and at a special meeting of the council the matter was laid on the table, but at a subsequent meeting it was decided to submit the matter to the voters and it carried 544 for, 52 against.

Mr. Smith immediately contracted for the machinery and built a plant on the north side of West Main Street in the block next to the Hawthorne School. The plant was ready for operation on February 12, 1890, with a capacity sufficient to furnish 700 sixteen candle power lamps. It operated four years. On January 12, 1893, the old electric light plant was sold to the Independence Gas Company. In March of that same year, a proposition to build a municipal lighting plant was submitted, and was carried by a decisive majority of 527 votes. The proposition to erect a building was duly discussed at the council meeting and finally the ayes won, by the mayor deciding the issue with his vote, and the city proceeded to erect a plant adjoining the waterworks building, and which was operated in connection with the waterworks.

In 1911 a large addition was built and a new Corlis steam turbine engine was installed.



GOVERNOR CUMMINS LAYING FIRST PAVING  
BRICK



After the Wapsie Power and Light Company built the big concrete dam in 1910 and installed a dynamo in the mill, the city entered into a contract with the company to buy such power as the company could produce at a rate which was a decided advantage to the city and the city has since enjoyed splendid service and light.

#### STREET PAVING

On Wednesday, June 27, 1906, A. B. Cummins, who was in Independence, laid the first brick on the original paving. It was a very impressive ceremony and had the brick been a gold one could not have attracted more attention and interest. For something like forty years Independence had had periodical spurts of agitating the paving question, but not until this year did the proposition carry. Again in 1909 the paving was extended, and in 1913. It now extends from the Central to the Rock Island depot and on East Main Street to the block west of the Forrester Bridge, and on Walnut from Second Avenue Northeast to the south end of that street at the corner of Oakwood Cemetery, and from Chatham Street, east on Second Street, to Walnut, and from Walnut Street to the South Bridge and from the South Bridge to the high school corner and north to Main, and it is contemplated to extend the paving quite extensively in 1915.

#### PARKS

Independence has three city parks—the East Side or Courthouse Park, situated just east of the Courthouse Square. It comprises the entire block and was established sometime in the '60s, but not until 1871 was any improving done to it, when a contract to grade it was let to Simon Murray for \$850. Trees were planted, the ground seeded and that is the extent of its improvements today, with the exception of a bandstand which adorns its center, erected probably twenty years ago, and a gravel walk which cuts the park diagonally. But nevertheless it is a beautiful, restful spot and one which ought to be more enjoyed by our own citizens and made more attractive for wayfarers.

The Third Ward Park was a gift to the city from the Boggs Estate, and is adorned with beautiful natural trees, and a fine tennis court makes it an attractive place for those who indulge in the game. Walks and benches are the only other additions to its natural state.

The Fifth Ward Park is perhaps the prettiest and best kept one in the city. It is situated just one block north of the Hawthorne School and has some few natural attractions. Its beautiful shade and pleasant surroundings make of it one of the most attractive spots for picnics. Many automobile parties passing through the city seek this quiet, shady retreat. When the civic improvement idea first struck Independence a few years ago, the place having become so neglected, the people in the immediate neighborhood undertook to improve it. Soon the whole ward became interested and dinners and picnics were given whereby to raise funds for the purpose. A goodly sum was realized. A fountain was established, flower beds planted, gravel walks built, and the place was one of the show spots in town.

Mrs. P. G. Freeman deeded a plot of ground to the city for park purposes. It is beautifully located along the river bank at the outskirts of the Fifth Ward, and should Independence ever grow to be a city this park would help the city beautiful idea with a chain of or one continuous park along the river bank. At this point one can command quite an extensive view, both up and down our beautiful Wapsie.

Purdy's Park recently established, in the summer of 1914, and named in honor of the mayor, is situated just north and west of the city waterworks and electric light plant. It is small in area but embraces many attractions in the way of seats and is very convenient for passengers waiting for boats on the river.

Fair View Park was perhaps the most popular park which Independence ever had, and this strictly speaking was not a city park but was established by the Street Car Company. It was situated on the street car line just at the corner where it turned south through the fields to reach the hospital grounds in the eighty west of Rush Park. This natural grove, upon a small hill overlooking the city and easily accessible by car and vehicle, made a most desirable resort for picnickers and was the rendezvous for almost daily excursion parties during the few years of the Independence boom.

One big excursion worth mentioning was when the Y. M. C. A., between Independence and Decorah, had an excursion to this city. Fifteen hundred excursionists took advantage of the rates and made Fair View Park their destination.

A large pavilion, benches, swings and other regulation picnic apparatus constituted the entire improvements.

Besides for picnic purposes Fair View was extremely popular for dancing parties, and almost nightly the strains of sweet music and rippling laughter was wafted on the gentle evening breezes. (So much for a sweet, decadent past.)

#### THE STREETS RENAMED

The question of re-naming and systematizing the streets of our city arose out of the necessity of adopting some regular system preparatory to the establishment by the government of the free delivery of mail here. What the postal requirements ask is simplicity and clearness in the arrangement. The following plan was presented to the council and was finally adopted.

Main Street shall be divided into East Main and West Main. All streets running north and south shall be designated numerically as First, Second and Third, etc., east and west of the river. Streets running east and west shall be designated numerically as First, Second, Third, etc., beginning with Main Street, and further designated in the division. All streets running north and south are designated as avenues, the river forming the starting point for numbering. The city shall be divided into four districts separated by Main Street and the river, to be known as northwest, northeast, southwest, and southeast divisions and the portions of streets in these divisions shall have these respective letters added to their titles, according to location of such portion of street. This system was adopted and has proved simple and satisfactory.

## MAYORS OF INDEPENDENCE

Daniel S. Lee from 1864 to May 8, 1865, when he resigned and J. S. Woodward was appointed to fill out the unexpired term.

W. A. Jones, from 1866 to 1868. Charles F. Herrick, from 1868 to 1870. Henry P. Henshaw in 1870. O. H. P. Roszell in 1871. W. A. Jones, 1872. O. H. P. Roszell, 1873 to 1875. D. D. Holdridge from 1875 to 1877. O. H. P. Roszell in 1877. Mr. Roszell having died on October 5, 1877, Samuel Hussey was elected to fill the vacancy.

John J. Ney in 1878. John Hollett from 1879 to 1881. C. M. Durham from 1881 to the time of his death in 1884. L. F. Springerin, 1885. D. W. Howard from 1886 to 1897. Warren F. Miller from 1897 to 1901. P. A. Sutkamp from 1901 to 1905. C. F. Herrick, 1905. R. E. Leach was appointed to fill vacancy caused by the death of Mayor Herrick in August, 1905. R. G. Swan from 1907 to 1911. A. N. Todd from 1911 to 1913. C. E. Purdy in 1913 and 1914.





## CHAPTER XXVI

### WHO'S WHO

IN LITERATURE—IN ART—MISCELLANEOUS

#### WHO'S WHO

Independence and Buchanan County have claimed some very notable people as residents. It would be impossible to name even a small part of them, from the fact that the list would be too long and that all the names worthy of mention are not obtainable, but this is no "blue book," so no one need feel slighted.

Many are like the "rose born to blush unseen and waste their fragrance on the desert air," and "the youth to fortune and to fame unknown," and many more like the man who is "not without honors save in his own town." We do not even attempt to name those who have acquired fame in social and club life, many of whom have reached the highest ranks. The politicians who have sealed the heights are duly recorded and honored in another chapter. A few men will be mentioned that have achieved success in artistic pursuits, and should we omit many who are eligible the fault is not intentional and other historians will find you out.

Among those worthy of mention is Mr. James Young, a poet of unquestionable ability and versatility, known as the "Westburg Poet." Numerous fine productions on various subjects, many of them on popular public issues, eulogies and anniversary poems and graphic descriptions, in rhyme of people and events connected with Buchanan County appeared in the papers of the '70s and '80s.

Other poets worthy of mention are Mr. G. M. Miller, of Hazleton, who has some exceptionally fine gems to his credit.

Mr. Erskine Barclay, of Littleton, was another poet of undeniable merit and versatility.

Mr. Newton Barr has written many poems, illustrative of pioneer life and homely incidents.

Mr. W. H. H. Joslin is also a voluminous writer of both poetry and songs, some of which have been published and became popular in Independence where he lives.

But perhaps the poet who has gained most distinction is Richard Warner Borst, a former Independence boy, who is now a Unitarian minister in a large church at Fresno, California. While in the university at Minnesota, through the urgent request of the professor and his friends, he was induced to publish in a collection, various of his poems which had appeared in numerous papers throughout the country. The book appeared in 1911—under the title, "The Human Cry," and is a collection of rare and beautiful gems of thought.

Mrs. Ada Knight Terrell is an extensive writer, having written numerous short stories which have appeared in some of the best newspapers and magazines and has written books, one of which is just now being published.

Rev. C. S. Percival, writer of the former Buchanan County History and for several years pastor of the St. James Episcopal Church, Independence, was a poet of no mean ability. His productions appeared in many of the leading newspapers and periodicals of the country, and were collected and published in book form under the title "Poetic Parallels and Similes in Song," and contained many beautiful poems.

Among those who have gained fame both at home and abroad is Mr. William E. Cook, son of J. E. Cook, who has achieved success and honor as an artist. He has spent several years abroad studying the masterpieces at close range. He has produced some wonderfully fine pictures which have been hung in the best galleries of the United States and France, but his most noteworthy production is his large painting of Pope Pius X which now hangs in one of the largest galleries of the United States. He is the only American who has ever been privileged to paint a Pope.

Leigh S. Toman, another Independence product, has achieved success as an illustrator, and is now employed in New York City on the staff of The Trotter and Pacer, an illustrator and cover designer.

Miss Alice Carsey is an artist and designer of unusual ability, and now has a fine position with an engraving company.

Among the notable people who have one time made Independence their home is Mrs. Richard L. Hozie, better known as Vinnie Reeve, Iowa's noted sculptress. She is the wife of Brigadier General Hozie, U. S. A., retired, and now lives in Washington, D. C.

Two of her most famous statues are Lincoln, which graces the rotunda of the capitol and has the distinction of being the only work of a woman to be admitted, and one of Admiral Farragut, in Farragut Square, Washington. She executed for Iowa a commission for a statue of Governor Kirkwood and has the distinction of having received the French right of adoption A. F. and A. M. from Albert Pike, in 1877.

The wife of General Shafter for a year or two, about 1860 and 1861, was a member of the Captain Lee family of Independence, and was sent here by her parents to thwart the attentions of Young Shafter. At the breaking out of the Civil war Shafter joined the ranks and soon rose to prominence and claimed his bride in spite of parental disapproval.

Gov. Frank Jackson was at one time a resident of Buchanan County.

Another person of fame and distinction who was for many years a resident of this county but who in the summer of 1914 shuffled off this mortal coil and all future responsibility for wind and weather. We refer to Mr. John Busby, the weather prophet, who for years has furnished Buchanan County and the whole surrounding vicinity weather predictions gratuitously, and even at that price has given us, to say the least, a great variety and probably an average quality of weather.

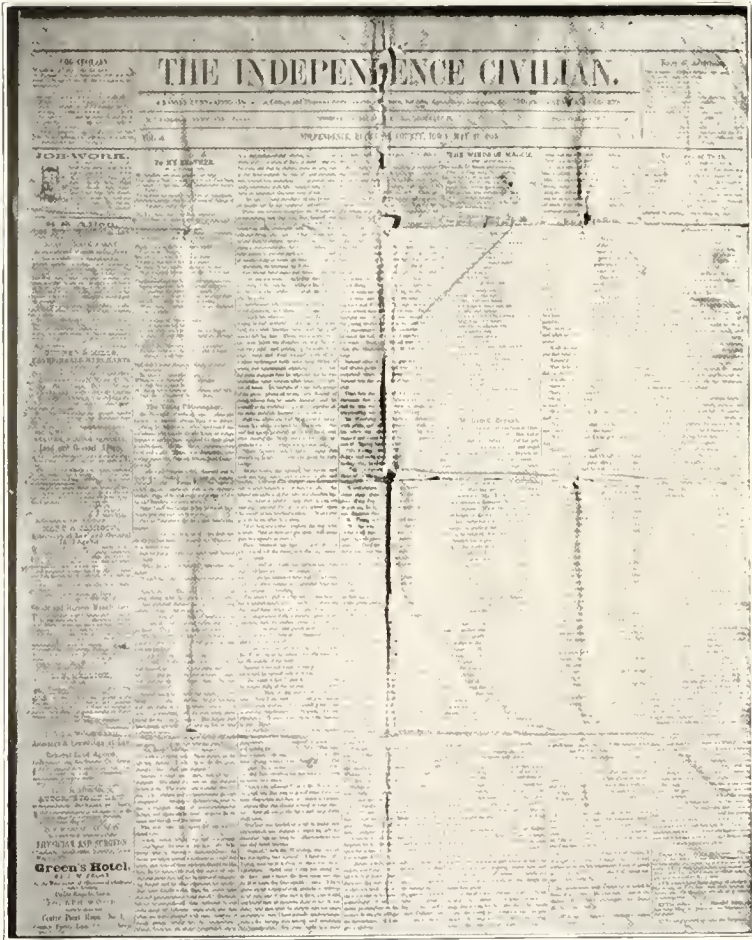
His forecasts were largely quoted throughout the state and his favorable or otherwise predictions were the controlling force of many a public event.

Buchanan County has to her credit a long list of heroes and heroines, many of whom have been accredited the honor due them, but many more never win the applause, their names are unrecorded, and even their heroisms forgotten.

One person whose deed of heroism was substantially rewarded was Dr. Charles Tidball, now located at Portland, but a resident of Independence. He rescued Miss May Maurer, who was a guest in the L. W. Goen home, from drowning and through the efforts of his friends was awarded a Carnegie medal and a gift of \$1,000.







FIRST PAPER IN INDEPENDENCE

## CHAPTER XXVII

### THE INDEPENDENCE PRESS

THE CIVILIAN—THE GUARDIAN—THE RISING TIDE—THE CRISIS—THE NATIONAL  
ADVOCATE—THE COURIER—THE IOWA TURFMAN—THE SATURDAY HERALD—THE  
BUCHANAN COUNTY SCHOOLS.

#### THE INDEPENDENCE CIVILIAN

The first printing press set in motion within the limits of Buchanan County printed the first edition of *The Independence Civilian*, May 17, 1855. This was the first Buchanan County paper, although about thirteen years after the first settlement. It bears the imprint "B. F. Parker and James Hillery, editors. Published every Tuesday morning. Office in the rear building of W. Scott's harness establishment." This was the culmination of a long promised venture—months previous subscriptions were solicited and the money paid in advance to help boost the proposition. To S. S. Allen, a young real estate agent and extensive property owner in the city, belongs the credit of starting the enterprise and furnishing most of the financial aid. Feeling that a newspaper was a public want in the town, he went to Dubuque and interested two employees of the *Herald* office in the project. They were James Hillery and B. F. Parker. A press and the necessary outfit was purchased and forthwith the paper appeared. Hillery was an intelligent, well educated man and his editorials were of a superior quality. B. F. Parker seems not to have cut much figure in the conduct of the paper. Undoubtedly he furnished more of brawn than brains. The paper was started non-partisan and extremely independent in its tone. After about a year Hillery sold his interest to Parker and returned to Maryland, and afterwards was employed in the Government printing office at Washington, D. C. Then in a few weeks Mr. Allen purchased Parker's interests and the latter went further West.

Thus deprived of a printer, Mr. Allen made another pilgrimage to Dubuque and employed as foreman another employee of the *Herald* office, G. W. Barnhart, who conducted the business interests of the concern. Judge S. J. W. Tabor acted as editor in 1856, and for a time was partner and made the paper strongly anti-slavery in its political tone.

The first of the year, 1857, Judge Tabor retired and Barnhart became a partner, and in April another practical printer named Cornwall became a member of the firm, and the paper was then conducted by Allen, Barnhart and Cornwall. At that time it espoused the principles and ticket of the democratic party and has ever since been the only organ of that party in the county. Barnhart then

sold out to a Mr. Metcalf, who retired, and Allen & Cornwall continued as editors for a short time, then Cornwall sold his interests to Warren Barnhart.

In looking over the files of that period of the paper's existence, we find various changes transpired on this combination of names; every few weeks the partners exchanged or sold their interests, until in 1859 Cornelius Hedges became the sole editor and proprietor. This change, however, proved of short duration, for in 1860 Mr. Hedges sold it to the Barnhart brothers, A. M., G. W. and Warren, and they continued its publication until February, 1863, when they retired in favor of the Buchanan County Printing Association, which firm consisted of C. F. Leavitt, S. S. Clarke, H. W. Glynn, H. A. King, Levi Strohl, Albert Clark, John Smysler, E. W. Purdy, L. J. Dunlap, S. S. Allen, Henry Bright and associates.

The concern was officered by a president and sixteen directors, an editor, secretary and treasurer. This was in reality a joint stock company which represented 150 shares at \$5.00 per share. The holders of all these shares were all of the democratic persuasion. It was, so to speak, the Buchanan County Democratic Party conducting its own mouth organ. Messrs. Roszell and Leavitt acted as editors. Early in 1864 the Barnhart brothers, this time Warren and A. M., again became its proprietors and on account of the unpopularity of the old name "Civilian" during war times, changed it to "The Conservative," which title it has adhered to ever since. It was conducted by various combinations of the five Barnhart brothers until 1872, when Warren Barnhart became sole proprietor and continued until July, 1879, when business interests took him to Chicago. L. W. Goen, who had been printer for him, became the editor-in-chief. July 15, 1882, he bought a half interest of Mr. Barnhart and in 1886 bought the entire paper. In November, 1896, he sold a half interest to Warren Miller. This partnership continued until January, 1903, when Mr. Goen again assumed full charge, and continued its editor until his death in August, 1913. Mrs. Goen then conducted it until March 1, 1914, when she sold to Warren F. Miller, Samuel Miller and Mrs. Walter Stevenson, who incorporated under the name The Independence Conservative.

The Civilian had a most changeful career. During the war the intense party strife and antagonism to democratic principles and "copperheads" made the paper in this strong union and republican county a veritable struggle for existence. Hedges abandoned it because he could not make it pay expenses, and when Judge Roszell was editor, A. M. and A. E. Barnhart, the printers, were given whatever proceeds there were for their labors.

To further show to what straits those early editors were driven to get pay either on back subscriptions or advance payments, was the ever recurrent plea for subscribers to bring in anything they might have for sale, corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, butter, eggs, cabbage, turnips, wood, anything and everything, and they would be allowed the highest market price. In 1856 one cord of wood paid a year's subscription to the Civilian. Even marriage notices had to be accompanied with a dollar bill, or else receive the ignominious fate of the wastebasket. But news was voluminous and space at a premium, during war times at least. The paper was started a seven column folio, seven columns to the page and four pages, but has been changed several times; for a short season, during the war, when paper was exorbitantly high, the size was cut to six columns, also



in the early '80s it was smaller. The Conservative office is now equipped with fine up-to-date machinery, an Intertype type casting machine, a Cottrell news press and two job presses, with individual motor for each press.

It has a circulation of over two thousand, and being the only democratic paper in the county, is the temperature and pulse of all the adherents of that faith.

Files of the early papers were not kept and only a few scattered and incomplete numbers are still in existence, saved from the fire of 1873, the earliest of which is a copy of the March 27, 1856 edition, Volume 1, No. 40, with the following motto as its escutcheon, "Deserve success and you will command it," and the subhead "A family newspaper devoted to foreign and domestic news, literature, science, the arts, agriculture, education, etc.—Independent on all subjects."

As far as living up to the foregoing professions and devotions, it most certainly fulfilled its obligations; has sown and reaped success and conscientiously devoted its entire space to all the above named topics, so far as the advertising space, which constituted the far greater portion, would permit. During the race meetings in 1891 the Conservative was published as a daily and during the I. N. Guard encampment in 1896.

A copy of the original issue of the Civilian was framed and presented to the public library by L. W. Goen, a photographic reproduction of which may be found in this volume.

In November, 1904, the Conservative moved into the store building on South Main Street, now owned by Will Littlejohn and occupied by the Ten Cent Store operated by Mr. Hale, after a residence of thirty years, or since the big fire in 1874, in the second story of the building occupied by the Steinmetz shoe store. In 1910 the Conservative moved into its present convenient quarters, in the Wapsie Block, on North Main Street, near the bridge.

#### THE GUARDIAN

This, the second paper published in the county, came into existence in Quasqueton, December 13, 1856. It was a seven column folio published every Tuesday under the editorial name Buchanan County Guardian, with Rich and Jordon as proprietors.

In 1858, it was removed to Independence and was located in the Union Block over the postoffice where it remained many years. When the war broke out Mr. Jordon was enlisted in the first company that was organized in Independence and was elected first lieutenant. In a few short months he succumbed to disease, and Mr. Rich, who had been conducting the paper, continued as before in the interests of himself and Mrs. Jordon, until June 8, 1864, when he sold their interests to Mr. S. B. Goodenow to become editor of the Dubuque Times.

Mr. Goodenow conducted the paper for two years under the caption of "The Guardian of Independence, Buchanan County, Our Home, Our Country and Our Brother Man." This title caused the editor much discussion and many explanations in its defense. He also changed the day of publishing it from Tuesday to Wednesday.

Previous to his purchasing the Guardian, S. B. Goodenow had been a Methodist minister in Waterloo. He was a very able and fearless man.

In June, 1866, he enlarged the paper to an eight column folio which he continued for a few weeks, but probably owing to the bitter animosity which he engendered from his outspoken and vitriolic arraignment of the other republican paper, *The Bulletin*, and the republican machine, he was eventually forced to sell to J. J. Loomis, who consolidated it with his own paper, *The Bulletin*, which he had established about a year before. The consolidated paper bore for a time the rather cumbrous title of *The Buchanan County Bulletin and Guardian*. The last name, however, was dropped after a time, and the paper continued as the *Bulletin* until it was combined with the *Journal* in 1891 and still continues the *Bulletin-Journal*.

In 1863 the *Guardian* improved its equipment by buying a new Gordon press, capable of printing 1,000 sheets per hour, which was considered a fine machine. At this time the circulation of the paper was between five hundred and six hundred copies. It also boasted seventy different styles of type for jobbing purposes, and professed to excel the Dubuque offices in assortment of type and superiority of work. In 1865, appeared the first correspondence from other towns and communities, that is, in a collective sense.

The *Guardian* under Mr. Rich's management received the most flattering notices throughout the state. It was known as a strong, earnest, wideawake, influential paper, made up of fine scissorings and a greater amount of original matter than any other weekly in the state.

Mr. Rich was a man of rare abilities with a quick, virile and versatile pen. His partisan zeal was very pronounced and that his pen exerted great influence was demonstrated in the fall election of 1863, which went republican by a large majority and Buchanan had hitherto been closely contested.

#### RI-SING TIDE

In 1858 was established another republican paper with the editorial nomen, *The Republican Eagle*, which after a short existence under that title assumed one more euphonius *The Rising Tide*. It was published weekly with Mrs. Daniels and Esquire Chandler as editors. Under this management its faith was changed from republicanism to spiritualism, and about 1860 moved its field of operations to a more congenial atmosphere, namely, Des Moines.

#### THE CRISIS

*The Crisis* was another paper of short and meteoric existence. It was published during the campaign of 1862 by some of the leading democrats, and being of bombastic and vitriolic nature wore itself out in a short time, but its purpose, the issues of that bitter and hot campaign, were decided by the ballot and proved that even a ballot is mightier than the pen.

#### THE NATIONAL ADVOCATE

*The National Advocate*, an eight column folio, was established and its first number issued at Independence, May 17, 1878, by R. J. Williamson. It was the result of the somewhat popular protest against the bank and bond system, and

the general financial policy of the republican party; and, up to June 1, 1881, continued to be an organ of the national greenback labor party. Mr. Williamson having been elected to the office of clerk of the courts of Buchanan County on the greenback ticket, and finding it impracticable to conduct the paper in connection with the duties of his office, sold it to M. S. Hitchcock, one of the pioneers of the greenback movement, January 1, 1880. During that year a Washington press was procured, and other important additions were made to the stock and furniture of the office. The Advocate was then printed both sides at home, and for the six months previous to June 1, 1881, the average circulation of the paper was over eight hundred copies.

L. H. Weller, commonly called "Calamity," afterwards became its editor and publisher and issued it spasmodically until about 1904, when it gasped its last breath. Weller made a contract to trade the plant on a piece of land in Minnesota but refused to complete the trade. Some litigation followed but the Advocate did not survive the shock and with its only excuse for existence, "the greenback party," is now but a matter of history.

#### THE INDEPENDENCE COURIER

The Independence Courier, a paper printed in the German language, was established in January, 1881, by Hermann Hoffman, as editor and proprietor. It was a six column paper with "patent insides," published every Thursday, and independent in politics. It was printed on the Bulletin press. Mr. Hoffman prepared all the editorials, set all the type—in fact did all the work of the office, with assistance in putting the paper through the press. He often "composed," in both senses, at the case; setting up what had never been set down, except in his own head. Mr. Hoffman sold out the type and other property of the office, to Steinmetz & Company, about the middle of April, 1881, but was still retained as editor and continued the publication until November 28, 1888, when it was discontinued.

#### THE IOWA TURFMAN

In the last of December, 1890, the prospectus of the Iowa Turfman, a monthly journal published at Independence and devoted to the advancement of the horse breeding interests of Iowa in general, and Independence in particular, had just been issued. As the proprietors of the enterprise preferred to remain incognito, no name being attached to the prospectus, the public was left to guess under whose guiding hand the craft set sail. It later developed that C. W. Williams, the Croesus of Independence, was the substantial promoter of the enterprise.

By January, the prospective Turfman had changed its nomen to the American Trotter—and the date fixed for its first issue was March 1st. Mr. Frank Whitney, a talented young artist from Chicago, had been secured to design the cover pages, and the result was highly artistic. Before the first issue was in type subscriptions were pouring in at a marvelous rate. One enthusiast from Indiana in remitting his first year's subscription added, "I expect to renew annually for the next fifty years, after that I do not expect to be interested in

trotters." The office of the American Trotter was opened in the Phillips block on Chatham Street, the first floor was occupied by the business office and editorial rooms, with the composing, mailing and press rooms in the double basement. A big five horse power water motor propelled the machinery. The first issue was published March 1, 1891, and at the end of the first year 10,000 subscribers were enrolled, which circulation steadily increased up until the time it suspended publication, which was in the fall of 1893. This is an unusual state of affairs, but owing to Mr. Williams' financial reverses, the paper along with the other concerns of which he was the motive power, suffered. The paper under the able management of C. B. Gildersleeve, with S. S. Toman and M. A. Smith, both of exceptional ability and experience, was bound to succeed and gained the enviable reputation of being the best journal devoted to the horse industry in the entire country, and had the concern been financed through this crisis by some of the Independence business men, it might have flourished for many years. Mr. Toman went to New York City, where he published the American Horseman. Mr. Gildersleeve removed from Independence to Galesburg with Mr. Williams. Mr. M. A. Smith for several years contributed a column known as sporting news to the county papers (the Bulletin-Journal and Conservative) and to sporting and horse papers.

#### THE SATURDAY HERALD

The Saturday Herald came into existence on Saturday, October 5, 1895. Its excuse for existence expressed in its own words was that "Believing there is a field and a welcome in Independence for a bright, lively, newsy paper, The Saturday Herald has arrived and makes application for citizenship." In asking for recognition, it deviated somewhat from the usual custom of candidates for public favor, in that it made few promises, or pledges and did not espouse the cause of any political party, would be the organ of no faction and would fight no one's battles but its own. It is not for the purpose of filling any long felt want, that the Herald threw its hat in the ring (so to speak); but it intended to create a want and then fill it and many other palpable reasons and intentions were elucidated.

The Herald was really an outgrowth of the printing business established in Independence by Mr. E. W. Raymond in the spring of 1894. Charles A. Durno and E. W. Raymond were the publishers and proprietors. Mr. Durno acted as editor and E. W. Raymond as business manager. The Herald's office was in a building directly opposite the Gedney Opera House on the second floor.

This paper flourished for a season under this efficient management and gave their subscribers as they intimated they would, "news in a concise and correct way, free from sentiment and prejudice." Their specialty was local news and when they could not find a sufficiency they proceeded to manufacture it. The editorials were particularly clever at times, some of the literary geniuses among the young men of the town lent their literary ability. After a short time Mr. Raymond sold his interest to Mr. H. A. Allen, the firm was then Allen and Durno, and soon thereafter Mr. Allen gained entire control of the business. In October, 1897, F. S. Wilcox, managing editor, severed his connection and the paper was in charge of Mr. Emmet Allen, who conducted it for about a year and a half,

when the enterprise was abandoned. It has never been satisfactory demonstrated that Independence can support three weekly papers, at least for any long period of years and this venture, although starting under such auspicious conditions, but proved again the already demonstrated fact.

#### THE BUCHANAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

The first issue of the Buchanan County Schools, an educational publication edited by County Superintendent E. C. Lillie and Professor Buechele, appeared in January, 1899. This publication was devoted to the interests of teachers and educators, contained a large amount of general reading matter pertaining to educational matters and school work and several columns of local news concerning work in the county.

This publication was continued for only a short time, the moving spirit, Mr. Lillie, for a time retired from public life on account of ill health.

The Advocate and Reformer, a religious weekly was published in Independence in the early '80s. It was edited by F. M. Robertson and published by Mr. J. E. Cates and had prospects of becoming the official organ of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the state. The office was located over Edwards' grocery. The paper deserved and received the generous support of the church whose interests it represented.



## CHAPTER XXVIII

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

EARLY PRACTITIONERS—THE BUCHANAN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY—THE PHYSICIANS  
OF TODAY—INDEPENDENCE HOSPITALS

When the first doctors began practice in Buchanan County they did not visit their patients in automobiles. Even if the automobile had been in existence, the condition of the roads—where there were any roads at all—was such that the vehicle would have been practically useless. Consequently the doctor relied upon his trusty horse to carry him on his round of visits. His practice extended over a large expanse of country and frequently, when making calls in the night with no road to follow but the "blazed trail," he carried a lantern with him, so that he could find the road in case he lost his way. On his return home he would drop the reins upon the horse's neck and trust to the animal's instinct to find the way.

As there were then no drug stores to fill prescriptions, the doctor carried his medicines with him in a pair of "pill-bags"—two leathern boxes divided into compartments for vials of different sizes and connected by a broad strap that could be thrown across the saddle. Besides the lancet, his principal surgical instrument was the "turnkey" for extracting teeth. A story is told of a man once complaining to a negro barber that the razor pulled, to which the colored man replied: "Yes sah; but if the razor handle doesn't break de beard am bound to come off." So it was with the pioneer doctor as a dentist. Once he got that turnkey fastened on a tooth, if the instrument did not break the tooth was bound to come out.

And yet these old-time doctors, crude as were many of their methods, were the forerunners of and paved the way for the specialists in this beginning of the twentieth century. They were not selfish and if one of them discovered a new remedy or a new way of administering an old one he was always ready to impart his information to his professional brethren. If one of these old physicians could come back to earth and step into the office of one of the leading physicians, he would doubtless stand aghast at the many surgical instruments and appliances, such as microscopes, stethoscopes and X-ray machines, and might not realize that he had played his humble part in bringing about this march of progress.

Among the early physicians of the county may be mentioned the following:

Dr. R. W. Wright became a settler here in 1851, remaining until 1860, when he went to Missouri. He, while here, was in the full practice of his profession, and was an active, energetic business man.

## THE BUCHANAN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

The physicians from Independence were, from early times, accustomed to hold meetings for consultation, exchange of views, the establishment of fee-rates, etc.; but no society was formed, embracing the entire county, till 1878. On the eighth day of May, in that year, upon a call issued by some of the leading physicians of the county, a meeting was held and an organization effected, with the name of "The Buchanan County Medical Society."

This organization has never comprised all the regular practitioners of the county, since some do not regard the benefits of association as fully compensating for the slight sacrifice of freedom and independence which membership in the society imposes.

Meetings were held on the third Thursday of May, August, November, and February, at which discussions were held in regard to miscellaneous matters connected with the interests of the profession, and interesting cases were reported that are met with in the practice of the members.

Doctor House was largely instrumental in the organization of the society, was elected as its first president and continued in office until his death in January, 1880, when Dr. G. H. Hill, superintendent of the insane hospital, was elected to the office and held it continuously for seventeen years. In 1897 Doctor Hill resigned and Doctor Ward, of Fairbank, was elected to the office.

On the 21st of September, 1904, the Buchanan County Medical Society met at the Gedney Hotel parlors for the purpose of reorganization to conform with the laws of the State Medical Association and the national organizations, and the election of officers resulted as follows: President, Dr. A. G. Shellito, of Independence; vice president, Dr. G. B. Ward, of Fairbank; secretary and treasurer, Dr. J. H. McGready, of Independence. Censors: Doctor Sherman, Independence; Doctor Malloy, Fairbank; Doctor Doolittle, Hospital; Doctor Ward was elected as delegate to the State Medical Convention.

Meetings are held once a month and subjects pertaining to medicine, disease, and operations are discussed. Many fine papers are delivered before this body, and the latest and most applied scientific discoveries of their profession are studied.

We would positively assert without fear of controversy that Buchanan County and Independence particularly, has as skilled and competent a class of physicians as any place in the United States. One fact to prove this assertion is that their services are employed not only throughout the State of Iowa, but in other states, and many patients from elsewhere come to Independence to seek consultation and for operations.

Dr. Joseph B. Powell settled here in the spring of 1852. He devoted his whole attention to the practice of his profession, and was an experienced practitioner. He was a graduate of a medical school in Ohio. He came from Reedsburgh, Ohio, to this county. He bought a farm about one mile northeast of the City of Independence, where, in 1855, he died.

Dr. H. H. Hunt was born in Baltimore, Maryland, July 4, 1823. He completed a course in medicine and for several years practiced in Ohio. In 1853 he located at Independence, Iowa, and continued the practice of medicine here until his death, on September 24, 1896.



In 1862 Doctor Hunt entered the Union Army, enlisting as a private in Company H, Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry, and was immediately promoted to the position of hospital steward, which position he held until 1864, when he was transferred to the Twenty-first Iowa, receiving the appointment of assistant surgeon. He served until Lee's surrender and was mustered out in July, 1865. At the close of the war he returned to his Independence home and resumed the practice of his profession. He was a man beloved by all, social, genial and kind.

Dr. George B. Parsons came here in 1854 and entered upon the practice of his profession. He graduated from the medical department of Yale University, about 1852. He practiced his profession in Connecticut, his native state, for a short time before coming West. While here he also kept a drug store in connection with his practice. At the breaking out of the Civil war, he was among the first to enlist in the service of his country. He was a captain while in the war. When the war closed, he returned to the City of Independence, but remained here but a short time.

Dr. J. A. Ward settled here in 1854 and remained for some ten years. He removed to Fairbank, where he practiced his profession for many years, also keeping a drug store.

Dr. George Warne settled here on the twenty-ninth day of May, 1856. He commenced the practice of medicine in Wisconsin, and continued in practice there for nine years. The doctor was the originator of the Cedar Valley Medical Society, and was its first president. He materially assisted in forming the Buchanan County Medical Society; was a member of the Iowa State Medical Society, and one of its pioneers; was connected with the American National Medical Association, in 1880 a delegate to their convention in New York City.

JOHN G. HOUSE, M. D.

The subject of this brief memoir was of New England ancestry, both parents being natives of Connecticut. He inherited the best traits of the New England character, and early laid the foundation of an eminent useful life on these solid virtues: industry, integrity and perseverance.

John Gates House was born in Cazenovia, Madison County, New York, on the 26th of April, 1816. He removed to Independence, Iowa, on the 1st of May, 1861.

At the time of his death, January 1, 1880, he had been for nineteen years an influential and leading character of the town and county. He had been for eleven years a member of the Iowa Medical Society, and presided at its meetings in 1875—was offered the presidency of the society for the next year, but declined to accept it. He had been also a trustee of the hospital for the insane at Independence, and secretary of the board since 1872, rendering valuable services to the institution as medical adviser. For several years he had served as examining physician for pensions.

Dr. H. C. Markham commenced the study of medicine with George W. Jenkins, in 1856, at Kilbourn City, Wisconsin; attended the medical department and graduated from the University of New York, receiving his diploma in 1859. He then entered upon the practice of his profession in the very place

where he had commenced its study; remaining there until after the breaking out of the Civil war, when, in 1862, he went into the service as a surgeon of the Nineteenth Wisconsin Regiment. He remained in the service for two and a half years, the most of that time in charge of Post Hospital, at Norfolk, Virginia. In 1865, he came to Buchanan County, locating at Winthrop, but in the spring of 1878 moved to Independence, where he was in practice until his death. He was examining surgeon for pensions, and local surgeon for Illinois Central Railroad and the B. C. R. & N. Railroad, at Independence. He was born in Mexico, Oswego County, New York, in 1838.

He died in 1901.

Dr. M. J. Powers moved to Independence in 1868 and formed a partnership with Dr. S. G. Wilson. In 1869 attended lectures at Rush Medical College, Chicago, and in the winter of 1870 at Medical University, New York. He was married and had three children.

Dr. Willis A. Mellen, M. D., a native of New York, graduated at Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, March 11, 1873. He commenced the practice of his profession at Sibley, Iowa, soon after his graduation remaining there until his removal to Independence, where he was in active practice.

Dr. Samuel G. Wilson settled here in July, 1873, going into partnership with John G. House, M. D., which continued up to the time of Doctor House's death, which occurred January 1, 1880. He prepared for and entered Lafayette College in Eastern Pennsylvania, but left during the junior year and commenced the study of medicine with his brother, a physician and a resident of the State of Pennsylvania. He graduated at Jefferson Medical College, Pennsylvania, March 12, 1873, and at once started west. He paid special attention to surgery. He married here, in the spring of 1878, a daughter of A. H. Fonda, an old settler, and had one child, a girl. Doctor Wilson was born July 7, 1850, in Pennsylvania.

Mrs. A. E. Maltison, M. D., came to this city and commenced the practice of medicine in 1874. She graduated at Ohio Eclectic Medical College, and soon after commenced the practice of medicine in Belvidere, Illinois.

Dr. J. Richards read medicine in Andrew County, Missouri, with E. W. Brown, M. D., a regular physician, in 1865-66. In 1869 he migrated to Iowa, settling at Quasqueton. He left there and went to Indiana in 1870, and practiced there up to the fall of 1880, when he came back to Buchanan County, settling in Independence.

Other doctors who practiced here for many years are Doctor Markham and Doctor Shattuck, both of whom are dead, and Doctor Howard, who in 1896 removed from Independence to Missouri, where he engaged in the practice of his profession.

Dr. Emory Sherman, who came to Independence in 1891 and practiced until about the year 1912, when he removed to State Center to make his home.

Those who are at present engaged in the profession in Independence are Dr. A. G. Shellito; Dr. R. E. Buchanan, Dr. J. H. McGready, Dr. F. F. Agnew, Dr. E. M. Sheehan, and Dr. B. B. Sells, Allopathic.

Dr. W. C. Miller, Dr. W. G. Allen and Dr. Caroline Brooks Woodruff, Homoeopathic; Dr. R. H. Simpson, Osteopathic; Dr. George Nelson and Dr. M. L. O'Connor, Chiropractors.

Dentists.—Dr. M. R. Brierly, Dr. G. L. Rosier, Dr. E. A. Schrader, Dr. F. T. Plank, Dr. Gale Wheeler, and Dr. Byron Penrose.

Veterinaries—Dr. N. A. Kippen and Dr. A. L. Trebon.

Dr. Bert G. Bissell, Aurora, Allopathic.

William G. Parker, Lamont, Homeopathic.

Earl Henry Trezonia, Lamont, Allopathic.

J. C. Garard, Hazleton, Allopathic.

H. H. Hunt, Hazleton, Allopathic.

M. J. Joynt, Jesup, Allopathic.

F. E. Shimer, Jesup, Allopathic.

V. W. Johnson, Quasqueton, Allopathic.

Joseph H. Murphy, Fairbank, Allopathic.

Edward Malloy, Fairbank, Allopathic.

G. B. Ward, Fairbank, Allopathic.

George W. Bothwell, Fairbank, Allopathic.

G. B. Thompson, Winthrop, Allopathic.

H. A. Householder, Winthrop, Allopathic.

Charles B. Rentz, Rowley, Allopathic.

M. J. Hyde, Brandon, Allopathic.

Everett C. Ward, Brandon, Allopathic.

## INDEPENDENCE HOSPITALS

This advertisement appeared in an 1874 paper and further proves the statement that there is nothing new under the sun: "Electric Water Cure—Mrs. J. E. Loomis, an M. D., of wide experience and general practice, established an Electric Water Cure Institution in the Morse Block." Her special use of the electro-thermal bath for chronic ailments had met with flattering success in this community and continued to elicit a lucrative practice here for several years.

The first sanitarium in Independence, properly speaking, was opened in Mr. James Whit's house in the Second Ward, with Mrs. Henrietta B. Ward, of Kansas City, a graduate of the Hopkins Theological Seminary, as healer and teacher.

Independence has never been inspired to build a city hospital, either through lack of public interest, or sufficient agitation, certainly not for the want of patients or necessity of such an institution, for the private institutions have proved a benefit and a blessing, if not a remunerative proposition to the proprietors.

At different times the doctors and nurses have conducted private hospitals. Doctor Buchanan some years ago had his residence property in the Fifth Ward enlarged and fitted up as a private hospital and it still continues in operation.

Doctor Shellito, after completing an elegant new residence in the Second Ward (now the home of L. D. Stocking), conducted a hospital therein for several months, when he occupied it as a private dwelling.

Miss Anne Smyth fitted up and conducted a hospital in the Holman residence property in the First Ward for several years and the last venture of the kind was when Miss Mary McClernon remodeled and fitted up their large residence in the First Ward for a city hospital, but in spite of the fact that patients were numerous in every case, the remuneration does not warrant the expenditure of labor and responsibility required to conduct such an institution.



## CHAPTER XXIX

### BENCH AND BAR

THE JUDICIARY—MEMBERS OF THE BAR—SOME LEGAL CASES OF NOTE

In the year 1847 there stood a small wooden building on the corner of Main and Court streets, in the City of Independence, the spot where what is called the Brewer Block now stands. The small, dingy front room of this building was used as the county clerk's office and courtroom. The back end was occupied by Dr. Edward Brewer and family.

In the fall of that year, a gruff-looking man, in a one-horse buggy, drove up to the front door of this building and from his seat called for the clerk of the court to appear. Doctor Brewer modestly stepped to the door, when the following colloquy took place:

"Is this the clerk of the court?"

"It is."

"I am Judge Grant. Are there any cases on the docket?"

"Yes, there are two. One an original case; the other an appealed case from a justice of the peace."

"Bring the docket out here."

The Doctor carried the docket out to the buggy. Says the Judge:

"Do you know anything about these cases?"

"I do. One is an original case against myself; that is to be dismissed. The other is an appeal from a justice by the defendant. I am counsel for the plaintiff. That is to be affirmed."

"All right. Enter them up accordingly."

And the Judge drove off. Thus ended the first court ever held in Buchanan County.

Doctor Brewer had just been elected county clerk, the first clerk of the county, and a position which he held continuously for the next twenty-one years.

Court was held the following year by Judge Grant in a log building just south of the Doctor House dwelling, in what is now the street. The year following it was held in an old building occupying the ground where the First National Bank now stands. It was at this place that a scene occurred which illustrates the practice of the times, likewise the peculiarities of Judge Grant, and the summary manner of dispensing justice.

Two men from Black Hawk County were here on trial for disturbing the peace. As was usual in those days, a large number of neighbors and friends

of the parties, and a host of witnesses, were on hand. As the skirmish was about to commence, the Judge said to Doctor Brewer:

"Call out all the men from Black Hawk County and have them stand in a row."

This was done, and enough stood in the row to make a good-sized militia company.

"Now," says Judge Grant, "put all those men under bonds to keep the peace." It was done at once, and court adjourned.

The next year T. S. Wilson was elected judge of the District Court. His first term was held in the old Methodist Church, just back of the present church. This building resembled a nine-pin alley, and was just about as large. The year following it was held in the upper room of the stone building now occupied by Tom Curtis as a livery stable and in a school building where the jail now stands. It was afterwards held in a wooden building just south of Orville Fonda's store, on the west side of the river, and afterwards, in 1857, in the present new courthouse.

The first judge of the District Court of this county was James Grant, of Davenport, who held his position from 1847 to 1853. The second was T. S. Wilson, of Dubuque, who held his first term in June, 1853, and his last term in September, 1862. The third was James Burt, of Dubuque, who held his first term in April, 1863, and his last term in October, 1870. The fourth, J. M. Brayton, of Delaware County, who held his first term in April, 1871, and his last term in April, 1872. The fifth, D. S. Wilson, of Dubuque, who held his first term in October, 1872, and his last term in September, 1878. The sixth, S. Bagg, of Waterloo, from January 1, 1879, to January 1, 1882. Seventh, C. F. Couch, of Waterloo, from 1883 to 1890. Buchanan County was in the meantime embraced in the Tenth Judicial District and J. D. Lincham, of Dubuque, served from 1887 to 1891. J. J. Ney, of Independence, from 1887 to 1894. Fred O'Donnell, of Dubuque, from 1891 to 1894. J. L. Husted, of Waterloo, from 1891 to 1894. Dubuque County was then made a district by itself, and A. S. Blair, of Manchester, served from 1894 to 1906. J. J. Tollerton, of Cedar Falls, from 1895 to 1897. F. C. Platt, of Waterloo, from 1898 to 1915. C. E. Ransier, of Independence, from 1907 to 1912. G. W. Dunham, of Manchester, was appointed in 1912. C. W. Mullen, of Waterloo, in 1913, both of whom, with H. B. Boies, of Waterloo, were just elected for four years.

#### FIRST TERM OF CIRCUIT COURT

The first term of the first Circuit Court of Buchanan County was held in March, 1869, S. Bagg, of Waterloo, judge. The first case tried in this court was D. D. Holdridge vs. Andrew Nicolia.

The judges of the Circuit Court were Sylvester Bagg, of Waterloo, from 1869 to 1878. Berker T. Winslow, of Dubuque, from 1869 to 1872. B. W. Laey, of Dubuque, from 1879 to 1883. B. N. Poor, of Dubuque, and David S. Wilson, in 1872. J. J. Ney, of Independence, from 1884 to 1887. W. H. Utt, of Delhi, from 1884 to 1886.

In 1887 the Circuit Court was abolished by an act of the Legislature.

The first sheriff was Eli Phelps, term commenced January 1, 1849, expired January 1, 1850. He was followed by H. W. Hatch, 1850 to 1852; J. A. Guthrie,

1852 to 1853; Norman Pickett, 1853 to 1854; Eli Phelps, 1854 to 1856; Leander Keyes, 1856 to 1858; William Martin, 1858 to 1860; Byron Hale, 1860 to 1862; John M. Westfall, 1862 to 1866; A. Crooks, 1866 to 1868; John A. Davis, 1868 to 1872; George O. Farr, 1872 to 1876; W. S. Van Orsdol, 1877 to 1880; E. L. Currier, 1880 to 1886; W. S. Mitchell, 1886 to 1888; J. N. Hiff, 1888 to 1892; W. M. Higbee, 1892 to 1894; E. O. Craig, 1894 to 1898; C. E. Hiff, 1898 to 1904; G. O. Corlis, 1904 to 1909; O. E. Finuf, 1909 to 1915; Fred Lehmkuhl, 1915.

Dr. Edward Brewer was elected clerk of the court in 1847 and served until 1868; D. L. Smith was elected in 1868 and served until 1878; R. J. Williamson was elected in 1878 and served until 1880; O. M. Gillette was elected in the fall of 1880 and resigned in 1889; W. E. Bain was appointed and served until 1890, when L. F. Springer was elected and served until 1894; A. M. Shellito, 1894 to 1896; H. C. Chappell, 1896 to 1900; M. O. Fouts, 1900 to 1905; J. T. Stevenson, 1905 to 1910; J. N. Smith, 1910 to 1913; and David Hood succeeded and is now the clerk.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF LAWYERS

James Jamison was born February 14, 1828, in the County of Armstrong, Pennsylvania. In 1850 he entered Alleghany College, at Meadville, Pennsylvania, where he remained for two years, working his way. He then commenced the study of law with the Hon. David Derickson at Meadville, and was admitted to the bar, August 18, 1853. He immediately took his diploma and started for the West. With no particular point in view, he threw himself into the great wave sweeping toward the West, trusting more to chance than to design as to where he should land.

Independence was the place, and, without hesitation, but with an assurance that success awaited him, he at once opened an office. His first law case was tried for Orrin Lewis, October 18, 1853, for which he received a fee of three dollars. His business for the first month amounted to five dollars and seventy-five cents.

A more uncouth, awkward, unpromising young man, in personal appearance, than Jamison was at that time, never threw his shingle to the public. Tall and angular, with light hair, a face not molden for beauty, awkward in every move, a gesticulation that defied all rules, a hesitancy of speech that was painful, he was at once, by superficial observers, set down as a failure. To the young men he was a subject of ridicule; to the young ladies a curiosity.

As a citizen he was just and honest. He set a noble example of filial attachment. His widowed mother presided over the home (for he never married), and her life was made happy by his constant love and devotion. Having no family to call forth and cultivate his domestic nature, his social qualities gradually found relaxation in the society of those whose tendencies were downward. The sequel need not be told. It is useless to follow him down the road we have all seen so many travel. It is the same old path; once entered it is seldom forsaken. It leads all classes to the same goal. The talented, noble James Jamison died a victim to intemperance the second day of August, 1878.

Capt. D. S. Lee was born in Genesee County, New York, October 16, 1817. On March 3, 1852, he was admitted to the bar of Iowa Supreme Court. In the

same spring he commenced practice of law in connection with the real estate business at Independence. In 1855, with P. A. and E. B. Older, he established the first bank in Independence. The latter business was very successful until the year 1857, when the firm went down with so many others in the general crash. All of Mr. Lee's ample fortune was swept away, and financially he never recovered. Lee attested his patriotism and fidelity to the Government by being the first man to volunteer from this county in the late war. On the organization of Company E, of the Fifth Regiment Iowa Infantry, he was unanimously elected captain, which position he held for three years. In the fall of 1864, immediately after his term expired, he was elected the first mayor of the City of Independence, and was reelected the year following. In the year 1869, he was chosen a member of the Iowa Legislature, and performed the duties of that office with much ability. At the close of the session he resumed the practice of law, and continued in the same until he was prostrated by disease in 1875. After a lingering illness he died, May 25, 1878.

O. H. P. Roszell—One of the most conspicuous and remarkable characters identified with the history of our county was the Hon. O. H. P. Roszell. He was born December 21, 1827, in Canandaigua, New York. His education was completed at the Cary Collegiate Seminary, where he attended for several years. December, 1849, found him in Independence, where he remained until his death. The first few years of his Western life were spent in various pursuits, principally in teaching and surveying. In 1851 he was admitted to the bar. In 1854 he was elected the first county judge of Buchanan County, which position he occupied for six years. The county judge at that time was a very important functionary. His powers, in reference to all business pertaining to county matters, were almost exclusive and unlimited. In 1858 Judge Roszell was elected county superintendent of public schools, holding the position for two years. He was, also, in the same year elected a member of the State School Board of Education. He was elected Mayor of Independence on three different occasions. Judge Roszell was of extraordinary personal appearance, tall, dignified, and commanding. The expression of his face was always grave and thoughtful, but good humored. His fine presence and brilliant talents at once commanded respect, even among strangers. In his speeches he was clear, logical, and forcible, rather than abounding in rhetorical embellishment. He was a strong partisan, always taking great interest in political affairs, and always an ardent democrat of the old school. Yet such was the esteem in which he was held by his fellow-citizens, that he was rarely beaten in a political race, although his party was in a hopeless minority. As a lawyer, he did not meet with brilliant success. His life was so much taken up with other matters that others, with less ability, outstripped him at the bar. Probably no man in Buchanan County did so much for popular education as he. He was always an enthusiast in advancing the efficiency of our public schools. He died the fifth day of October, 1877.

Albert Clarke was born in Conway, Massachusetts, in 1810. He commenced the study of languages, preparatory to entering college, which he did in 1830, when he entered Amherst College, and was in the same class with Henry Ward Beecher and Fowler, the phrenologist. He graduated in 1834. Having been interested to a considerable extent in lands in Buchanan County,



in 1854 he moved to Independence, and gave his attention to its interests, and also to agencies of land belonging to Eastern men, and attending to various public interests with which he was intrusted. He died in the year 1868, aged fifty-eight years.

James W. Weart was born in Hopewell, Mercer County, New Jersey, in a house occupied by General Washington as his headquarters during a period of the Revolutionary War. He was lieutenant in the Twenty-first Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers. He came to Independence December 25, 1863, and at once commenced the practice of law. He was city clerk for a number of years; also clerk of the Iowa Senate for three terms. He came to his death by the accidental discharge of a gun while hunting on Thanksgiving Day, which badly mutilated both of his hands. He survived the accident about one week, dying in December, 1874.

D. D. Holdridge was born in Madison County, New York, September 3, 1835. He was educated at the Cazenovia Seminary, New York, and then studied law two years with D. W. Cameron, at that place, after taking a full law course at the Law University at Albany. He moved to Independence, Iowa, March, 1862, and immediately commenced the practice of law. He was elected to the Iowa Legislature in the fall of 1863. He was afterwards quartermaster of the Forty-sixth Iowa Infantry Volunteers. During the war he received a commission from Abraham Lincoln as captain and commissary of subsistence, but declined to serve. He was three times Mayor of the City of Independence, twice by election and once by appointment. He left Independence in the early '80s and is now living in South Dakota.

S. S. Allen was born May 1, 1828, in Franklin County, Massachusetts. At nineteen years of age he came to the State of Wisconsin and taught school. In 1851 he entered a law office in Wisconsin, where he studied two years. In 1853 he was admitted to the bar and immediately came to Independence, Iowa, where he practiced three years. He then gave up the practice and became a farmer, in which vocation he remained until his death.

J. S. Woodward was born in Middleburgh, New York, in 1830. He first read law in Janesville, Wisconsin, and in 1853 was admitted to the bar at that place. In the fall of that year he came to Buchanan County and located at Independence. A more extended sketch may be found in Volume 2 of this work.

Col. Jed Lake was born in the State of New York on November 18, 1830. After an early life filled with ups and downs Jed Lake finally drifted to Independence in October, 1855. A complete sketch of him may be found in Volume II of this work.

William G. Donnan was born in West Charleston, Saratoga County, N. Y., on June 30, 1834, the son of Alexander and Elizabeth McKindley Donnan. He was of Scotch descent. At seventeen years of age Mr. Donnan entered Cambridge Academy, New York, and two years later entered Union College. He graduated in 1856. He immediately came to the City of Independence and resided here until his death on December 4, 1908. He was married on October 1, 1857, to Mary C. Williamson. Two sons were born of this union: William W., who died November 1, 1906, and Donald D., at present of Buchanan County. Mr. Donnan began the study of law in the office of J. S.

Woodward in Independence and was admitted to the bar in 1857. In the fall of that year he was elected treasurer and recorder of Buchanan County, and was reelected in 1859. In 1867 he was elected state senator from this district, and it was largely through his influence that the hospital for the insane was erected at Independence. In 1872 Mr. Donnan was again elected to this office. At the end of his second term he declined a second renomination and was then offered by President Grant a diplomatic mission to South America, which he also declined. In 1876 he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Cincinnati which nominated Rutherford B. Hayes, and in 1884 was delegate-at-large to the Chicago convention which nominated James G. Blaine. In 1883 Mr. Donnan was again elected to the Senate of the state, and while serving this capacity introduced a bill prohibiting the liquor traffic in the State of Iowa. In 1875 Mr. Donnan was elected a director of the First National Bank of Independence and in July, 1903, became the president of that institution. He was serving in this capacity at the time of his death. As a member of the Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry during the Civil War, Mr. Donnan won many honors and was promoted from private through the successive ranks until he was adjutant general. Mr. Donnan was also a prominent Mason in the state. At one time he held the office of grand captain general of the Grand Commandery of Iowa. He was also a member of the G. A. R. and Legion of Honor.

J. B. Donnan was born in the State of New York on December 13, 1840, and came to Independence in May, 1862. He graduated at the Iowa State University, in the law department, and then began the practice of law in Independence, forming a partnership with his brother, W. G. Donnan, in 1865, which continued until it was the oldest law firm in Iowa.

M. W. Harmon is another lawyer prominently identified with the history of Buchanan County. He is yet active in the practice of his profession. A detailed sketch of his life is written in the second volume of this work.

D. W. Bruckart was a Pennsylvanian by birth, having been born there April 23, 1851. He pursued his education in the East until 1868, when he entered the Iowa State University and graduated. In the fall of 1872 he opened a law office at Independence and afterward moved away.

M. R. Eastman was born in New Hampshire in 1839. He was admitted to the bar in 1864. He came to Waterloo, Iowa, in 1865, and practiced there until 1868, when he came to Jesup. In 1874 he removed his office to Independence. About ten years ago he went West.

C. E. Ransier was another attorney of this city who won fame and honor. A complete sketch of him may be found in Volume II of this work.

Daniel Smyser was born May 29, 1839, in the State of Ohio. He came here in 1851. His early law education was obtained in the office of James Jamison and he was admitted to the bar in 1871.

Seth Newman was born in New York on December 7, 1836. He studied law in the East and was admitted to the bar November 15, 1860. He practiced with Horace Boies at Buffalo until 1861 when his health compelled him to relinquish his work for several years. He came to Independence in 1876 and was elected justice of the peace the same year. In 1880 he entered into partnership with W. H. Holman.

John J. Ney was born in Ohio June 8, 1852. He received his education at Notre Dame, Indiana. In 1875 he came to Independence and entered into partnership with Lake and Harmon. A complete sketch of Judge Ney may be found in Volume II of this work.

Capt. H. W. Holman was born in Erie County, Pennsylvania on August 21, 1841, and in the East he spent his early manhood. At the opening of the Civil War he enlisted in the Eighty-third Pennsylvania Infantry and was successively promoted until he was sergeant of the signal corps. In October, 1866, he came to Iowa, and located in Allamakee County. In 1871 he moved to Waterloo, and in 1875, to Independence. Here he began the practice of law. In May of 1904 he was obliged to give up his profession to seek health. His death occurred Sunday, March 5, 1905. Captain Holman was known as one of the best lawyers who ever practiced in Independence. He was a member of the G. A. R., the Legion of Honor and was a Mason of very high rank. For years he was worshipful master of the Blue Lodge and long served as eminent commander of the Templars. At one time he held the office of grand captain general of the Grand Commandery of Iowa.

J. E. Jewel was born in Ohio in 1847. He came to this county in June, 1854. During the Civil War he served in Company C of the famous Twenty-seventh Iowa. He was graduated from the law department of the Iowa State University in 1877 and began the practice of law in Independence in September, 1877.

Frank Jennings was born in Pennsylvania July 3, 1836. After his education he studied law with H. T. McNulty at Dubuque, Iowa. In 1877 he removed to Independence where he continued in the practice until his death.

J. H. Williamson was born February 7, 1855, in New York State. He began the practice of law in Independence in September, 1880, and entered a partnership with his brother, R. J., in 1881. He practiced here until his death.

R. J. Williamson was born February 3, 1857, in New York State. He was elected clerk District Court of Buchanan County in 1878. Admitted to the bar in 1880, and entered in partnership with his brother, J. H. He afterward moved to Grundy County, where he now lives.

O. M. Gillett, another early lawyer of Independence and now president of the Commercial Bank, has a sketch in the second volume of this history.

Francis W. Comfort was born in Illinois in 1853. He was educated at Wheaton College and was admitted to the bar in 1880.

F. W. Gifford was a native of Vermont, having been born there in 1854. He graduated from Madison University in 1875. He came to Independence and studied law with Lake and Hamon and also with O. M. Gillett. He was admitted to the bar in 1877 and was elected justice of the peace in 1880.

E. S. Gaylord was an early lawyer of the Town of Winthrop. He was admitted to the bar in 1901.

Stephen Paul Sheffield was an early lawyer at Hazleton. He was admitted to the bar in New York in 1855. He came to Iowa in the same year, but remained only a short time. He returned, however, in 1873 and in 1880 he settled in Hazleton.

Louis F. Springer was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, of "Pennsylvania Dutch" stock. He was a graduate of Lafayette College at Easton, where he was a pupil of Doctor Lord, one of the most scholarly men of his time. Later he studied law, and came West to practice, locating in Independence in 1880. In 1881, he was elected city attorney, succeeding C. E. Ransier, and served four years. In 1885, he served a year as mayor, filling out the term of C. M. Durham, who died in office. He served two terms as clerk of the District Court from 1891 to 1895, then returned to the practice of law. He served as representative from this county in the State Legislature in the twenty-ninth, thirtieth, thirty-first and thirty-second general assemblies. Every election to county office was gained over adverse majorities, indicating his popularity with the voters of the county.

After he retired from the clerk's office he formed a partnership with W. F. Miller and afterwards with M. A. Smith, with whom he was associated at the time of his death, on April 19, 1914.

Charles L. Everett was born in Fairbank, forty-four years ago, his parents being Franklin B. and Sarah Everett. The early days of his life were spent in and about his native home where he received his elementary education. After teaching school for a short time in neighboring districts, as a young man, he entered the law department of the State University of Iowa City. After graduation he came to this city, and in partnership with Warren F. Miller, practiced his profession, for about a year. In March, 1895, he became the law partner of C. E. Ransier, with whom he was associated at the time of his death on May 20, 1903.

W. F. Miller, now editor of the *Conservative*, and whose biography appears in Volume II of this work.

R. F. French, who was at one time associated with H. W. Holman and is now farming in this county.

C. J. Rudolph, who was located at Jesup, but is now at Waterloo.

G. W. Baekns, at one time located at Lamont, but now at Oelwein.

James Dalton, of Jesup, who has retired from practice and is now in the banking business.

At present the following are in active practice: R. L. Bordner, Jesup; J. E. Cook, R. A. Cook, H. C. Chappell, A. N. Todd, E. E. Hasner, R. A. Hasner, M. W. Harmon, R. J. O'Brien, M. A. Smith, and E. M. Thompson, of Independence.

In October, 1909, a fine new safe was installed in the county treasurer's office. The treasurer's office had for some time been in need of such new equipment. The old safe which has been supplanted by the new one was in rather sad shape, which showed the marks of age and damage. The doors sagged and much of the packing was out and a new safe was certainly a much-needed equipment.

The old safe has its part in history. It was the one which was blown open in 1864 and relieved of \$26,000 of Buchanan County's taxes, and although it was more or less damaged in that exciting affair, it had been on duty ever since, after being repaired from the effects of a thief's operations. The old safe showed where the drilling had been done and the holes so made had evidently been filled, and in other ways showed the effects of time and bad usage.

Possibly the supervisors resolved to make the old safe pay for their misplaced confidence in it.

During the year 1898 several companies for the cultivation and production of coffee, rubber and tropical fruits on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico, were organized.

Among these was the Suchil Coffee and Rubber Company, with a capital of \$50,000. Charles E. Ransier was president; D. S. Jones, vice president; H. C. Chappell, secretary and W. W. Donnan, treasurer.

Another was the Tres Rios Plantation Company, of which H. W. Bennett was president and general manager; Charles E. Ransier, secretary and W. W. Donnan, treasurer. This company was capitalized at \$75,000.

In addition to these, large investments were made in the Dos Rios Plantation Company and other concerns engaged in the same business.

All of the enterprises finally went to the wall in 1905 and the stockholders lost all they put in. The proposition of engaging in agricultural pursuits so far from home proved a failure, owing largely to bad and extravagant management at the plantations which were too far away to secure the close personal attention of the directors and officers which was necessary to make the venture successful.

Some of the legal cases that have come before the courts in this county, or have been taken from it to others, by change of venue, are sufficiently interesting to demand some space and attention, but are so numerous that only a few of these can be touched upon and those only briefly.

The Covey murder case furnishes a remarkable instance of the failure of justice. The law requires that before a man can be tried for murder, it must be proven absolutely that the person supposed to be murdered is dead, and in this case, convincing as were the circumstances pointing to the murder of Covey, not being able to produce the body there was still a doubt as to his death. That murder had been committed no one doubted. Who the murdered man was and who the murderer everyone knew. The murder not being proven according to the technical requirements of the law, the murderer escaped unpunished.

Among the early settlers in and about Buffalo Grove, or Upper Buffalo, as it was called, was a family by the name of Jewell. Several of the sons were married and had taken up land in that vicinity; one of them named Rock Jewell had taken a small tract of land on the west side of the grove in what is now Byron Township. In the spring of 1855 J. N. Covey came from Vermont and made some kind of a trade with Rock Jewell for his land. Covey had a large house built there the same year and moved into it in the spring of 1856. Jewell and his family still lived in a small shanty on the place. Some time in May of the same year Covey foreclosed a chattel mortgage that he had on a span of horses owned by Jewell and bid them in himself. Jewell considered himself wronged by Covey in these transactions and was harboring a grudge against him, though no open rupture had taken place between them. Both Covey and the Jewells, Rock and Tom, were rather rough and intemperate characters, but no one suspected them to be capable of such a terrible crime as that of which they now stand convicted in the popular estimation.

On the first Sunday in June, 1856, Covey started with the team above mentioned to go to Dubuque, avowing his intention of going from there to Vermont and of returning in about two weeks. As he was about to start, Rock Jewell came out of his shanty and asked the privilege of riding over to his father's, who lived some two miles distant. The privilege was granted as from one neighbor to another and the two set out, crossed a bridge over Buffalo Creek and disappeared in the timber. This was the last that was seen of J. N. Covey, except by those who are believed to have put him out of sight eventually and forever on that fatal morning.

D. W. Hammond, another settler at the Grove, who had been recently married and had made arrangements for going to housekeeping, was expecting to meet his wife at Dubuque about the middle of the week and had engaged to meet her there and return with a load of household goods. Covey, ascertaining this, persuaded Hammond to go with him that Sunday morning instead of waiting until Monday or Tuesday, as he had intended to do. Covey was to stop at Hammond's boarding place and they were to start from there about 7 o'clock in the morning. At about 6 o'clock, while Hammond was getting ready to start, Tom Jewell, who also lived on the east side of the Grove, went by on a horse of his brother-in-law's, going south, with a spade on his shoulder. Seven o'clock came and Covey did not appear. After Hammond had waited a half hour or more Tom Jewell returned without the spade, bare headed, riding the same horse at a full gallop. As soon as he came near Hammond he called out, "Haven't you gone yet?" Hammond replied, he was waiting for Covey. "Why," said Jewell, "he went nearly an hour ago. He told me to come and tell you and I forgot it. He had to go by the south road and wants you to go on to the crossing and he will meet you there. If he don't, you drive on to Coffin's Grove and wait for him if he hasn't got there. If he gets there first, he will wait for you." Hammond took the road about a mile north of the one he supposed Covey had taken, the two running parallel for some distance then converging and finally crossing each other on the ridge about three miles east of the grove. Hammond had not gone far when he saw Covey's team on the south road driven very rapidly. He supposed it was Covey that was driving, but noticed that he sat crouched down in the wagon in an unusual attitude. Thinking at first that the rapid driving was a challenge to see which should reach the crossing first he put whip to his own team and ran them for some distance, but the other gained upon him so fast that he soon gave it up. Just before reaching the ridge, Covey's team had to cross a slough which retarded them so that when they reached the crossing Hammond was not more than fifty rods from them. The driver was still crouched down in the wagon as if desirous to avoid recognition and instead of taking the road for Dubuque, he turned directly north and drove over the open prairie as fast as the horses could go. As the wagon receded in the distance, Hammond saw distinctly that a Buffalo screen was spread over the bottom and that some large, loose object beneath it was rolling or bounding from side to side.

Hammond went on to Coffin's Grove and there waited several hours for Covey to come, but having waited in vain he at last gave him up and started on to Dubuque alone. He was in Dubuque several days and every day looked and

inquired for Covey but he did not come. Two weeks passed and he did not return, nor were any tidings heard of him.

Rock Jewell was absent, no one knew where, and suspicions of foul play began to be aroused. A search was made. About the first of July, 1856, Charles H. Jakway, then a resident of Buffalo Grove, now of Aurora, and a member of the advisory board, happening in Dubuque on business, came across Rock Jewell sitting behind a pile of wood on the levee, with his hat drawn over his face, as if not wishing to be recognized. Jakway had some conversation with him, but Jewell, in a great rage and many oaths, protested he had never seen Jakway before. No time was lost in sending back word that Jewell was in Dubuque and having him arrested by the officers on a charge of murder.

It was afterwards found that Jewell sold the team, wagon, and harness and had tried to sell two watches which Covey had with him when he left and also that he had on many of Covey's clothes when seen in Dubuque. It was to get these watches priced by a jeweler that he came to Dubuque under an assumed name, along with the man who was going to purchase them.

The whole neighborhood about the Grove was aroused when they learned that Jewell had been arrested and was wearing Covey's possessions. Telegrams were sent to Covey's relatives in Vermont and answer returned that he had not been there. A large searching party went up and down through the timber and out on the prairie and examined every place it was thought a body could be concealed, but no trace of it was found. Other parties spent days in searching, but to no avail. Mr. Jed Lake of Independence, who with two other men owned a sawmill situated near the Covey's, and boarded with them, went to Petosi where the horses, wagons and harness had been sold, to recover the property. The wagon, as found, had a stain on the bottom of the box which looked very much like blood, but so long a time had elapsed it could not be definitely proven.

Jewell had a preliminary examination at Independence and when all the facts were brought out in the evidence, before the magistrate, he was committed to jail to await the action of the grand jury. That body at its next meeting, in the fall of 1856, indicted him for murder in the first degree. He was kept in jail at Delhi, then the county seat of Delaware County. At that time, a man by the name of Manchamer was confined in the jail with him and he being released from jail declared that Jewell had admitted to him the killing of Covey, and told him where the body was buried, but when he was taken into the grove he was unable to recognize the place. Jewell was kept in jail about a year, when as it appeared to the court that the body had not been found, that there was no prospect of finding it, he was released from jail, and the case stricken from the docket. So that if the body should ever be found, he could be re-arrested and tried.

That a conspiracy was formed for the murder of Covey was almost certain from the fact that the two Jewells and their brother-in-law, S. Starkey, were believed to have been together till a late hour of the night previous to the murder and another fact in connection with this is that when Jewell was arrested, he had in his possession a revolving rifle which Covey had brought

with him from Vermont and which he had loaned to Jewell a day or two before his disappearance.

#### SUSPECTED POISONING

In the year 1868 Daniel Thomas purchased\* a farm in the Town of Hazleton and moved onto it. About the same time, a Mrs. Fay, a widow with a large family, moved onto a farm that she had purchased of Mr. Thomas. The neighbors were not long in coming to the conclusion that there was undue intimacy between Mr. Thomas and the widow, but as Mrs. Thomas made no complaint and none of the old residents of the neighborhood had any previous knowledge of either party, nothing was said or done by them, except to avoid them as far as possible. Things went on this way for about two years.

Mr. Thomas had received considerable money due him from Wisconsin and Mrs. Fay built a new house, a fence, and out buildings on her place and often when they came to Independence together she purchased goods to a considerable extent for which Mr. Thomas paid.

In February, 1871, Mrs. Thomas was taken seriously sick with cramping in the stomach and severe spasms. A physician was sent for but discovered no alarming symptoms and thought she would get better in a few days. In a day or two after this, however, Mrs. Thomas died. On the day of the funeral it was reported that Mr. Thomas took the widow Fay out for a ride, whereupon the neighbors became aroused and sent for the county coroner, Dr. H. H. Hunt, filed before him an information alleging in substance that they believed Mrs. Thomas had been poisoned. Doctor Hunt had Thomas arrested and his house searched and found in it a bottle containing sulphate of strychnia. He then had the body exhumed and a post mortem examination was made by a chemist and poison was found in the stomach. A coroner's jury brought in the verdict that Mrs. Thomas was killed by poison administered by her husband.

Messrs. Lake, Harmon & Jamison were employed as counsel for the defense and after careful examination came to the conclusion that delay was a good defense. The evidence for the prosecution being mostly circumstantial, left his case in some doubt so that the prosecuting attorney was not anxious to urge the case to trial.

At the time when Mr. Thomas was confined in the county jail there was a large number of very tough criminals confined there also. They had conceived a plan to break jail, but did not deem it advisable to make a confidant of Mr. Thomas so contrived in some way to stupefy him in his cell. They succeeded in getting out of jail but their plan was frustrated by some other means and all were re-captured in a short time. After that Mr. Thomas at another time put the sheriff on the watch for tools that had been prepared by a noted burglar then confined in jail to get out. This so enraged the other prisoners that it was deemed unsafe for him to be with them and he was removed to better quarters in the jailer's house. His case in the mean time was not called for trial but was continued by consent of counsel.

Mr. Thomas was confined in the county jail but being an old and feeble man, in the spring of 1872 he was taken sick and in a short time died. Thus the facts that might have been found by a jury on a trial will never be known.



## DEADLY ASSAULT, MURDER AND SUICIDE

On Sunday evening, February 17th, 1878, Mr. Sidney Toman and Miss Matie Sherwood were returning to Independence from Fairbank Township where the latter had been stopping two or three days visiting friends. They were in a covered buggy. It had become dark before they reached town. Near the southwest corner of the Catholic cemetery Mr. Toman stopped the horses to adjust the buffalo robe when some unknown person leaped upon the back of the buggy, thrust his hand through the cover and discharged a pistol. The discharge not taking effect, Toman attempted to whip up the horses but could not make them move. The suspicion was that an accomplice of the ruffian was holding them but subsequent developments lead people to suppose that the young lady was the accomplice keeping the horses from going.

Toman, determined to sell his life as dearly as possible, jumped into the buggy and seized the man who had fired the pistol. A scuffle ensued during which several more shots were fired. Two of them taking effect on the left side of Toman's head and face. Neither of them proved serious. One bullet lodged in the muscles of the face where it remained until it was removed by a physician. The would-be assassin having emptied all the chambers of the revolver succeeded in releasing himself from his intended victim who, though weak from his struggle and the loss of blood, managed to get into the buggy and drive into town. Strange to say, the assailant as the buggy started leaped again upon the back part of it and remained there until it arrived near the Illinois Central depot, when he jumped down and disappeared. Whether or not he tried to reload and finish his work will never be known.

The first suspicion, so far as the public knows, concerning the perpetrator of this diabolical outrage, fell upon a rough and dissipated character named Jim Strohl, who, with an unknown companion, was seen near the Central Railroad depot on the afternoon before the occurrence. He had recently been in the penitentiary and was harboring a grudge against Toman for some things that had been said about him in the Independence Bulletin, of which paper Mr. Toman was local editor.

One of the suspicious circumstances implicating Strohl and his companion was the finding of some wet handkerchiefs, one of them stained with blood, in the pockets of their overcoats which had been discarded under the plank-way at the Independence Mill. Considering all the circumstances, it was thought best to have them arrested on a charge of vagrancy that the authorities might have time for future investigation. This was accordingly done. They were sent to jail for ten days. Before the ten days were up, it was thought that sufficient facts had been discovered to implicate them in the attempted murder; being arrested on this charge, they waived examination and were re-committed to await the action of the grand jury. That body met about the middle of March and after a three days' hearing the accused boys, for Strohl had hardly reached his majority, and the other, Rourke, alias Henderson, was only seventeen, were held in the sum of \$3,000 each, to appear at the next term of the District Court. Circumstances surrounding the affair made a bad looking case for the boys, still, many puzzling questions which could not be answered were brought up in the trial.

Two things were evident: first, that the motive of the assault was a grudge of some sort; and, second, that the person or persons who planned and perpetrated it knew that Toman was to pass that way about that time. If, therefore, Strohl and his companion knew, arriving in town late, as they did Sunday evening, they must have been informed by some third party, but no such party was ever found. The case was called for trial at the next session of the District Court on the 7th of May.

Rourke had been bailed out by his friends and was not to be tried at this session. The case was managed on the part of the state by District Attorney Powers, assisted by Mr. Holman of Independence, on the part of the defense by Charles Ransier and an attorney by the name of Gannon, of Davenport. The trial lasted four days when the case was given to the jury. After being in consultation over it all night, they brought in the verdict of guilty. Strohl remained in jail until the June session of the court, when on Saturday, the 22d of that month, application for a new trial having been overruled, he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the penitentiary at Anamosa.

The opinion was held by some people that the reason that Strohl could not prove an alibi was that at the time of the shooting he was engaged in robbing a store in Independence.

The sequel of the preceding attempted murder is a fitting closing to what was considered by many people an injustice.

Miss Matie Sherwood, the young lady who was with Sidney Toman at the time of the assault related before, and who was commonly understood to be engaged to him in marriage, had another lover, Clarence Shaw, who seemed to be completely infatuated by her many attractions, and who on the other hand seemed to exert over her a strange sort of spell. It was not known that the rivalry of the two young men, in regard to the young lady, had ever produced an open rupture between them, but there certainly must have existed a strong feeling of jealousy.

During the trial, and after it, the feeling was general, even among those who believed Strohl to be guilty, that there was a third party still not discovered more guilty than he. This feeling was so much intensified after Strohl's conviction that a detective was employed to ferret the matter out. Suspicions began to point to young Shaw as the third party and hearing of these suspicions he was greatly annoyed and agitated. His conduct became more and more strange and many of his actions and words on the day of the fatal deed partook strongly of the character of insanity. But whether or not he was guilty of the shooting of Toman, it is not probable that remorse or the fear of apprehension alone impelled him to the terrible act which he finally committed.

The frank confession that he had assaulted him in a moment of frenzied jealousy, accompanied by an openly avowed resolution to atone for his crime by a future course of virtuous living, would undoubtedly have saved him from the penitentiary and regained for him, at length, the good opinion of the community, whereas the double crime with which he left the world was looked upon by many as a confession of the smaller crime of which he was suspected. Undoubtedly it was the infatuation of a misplaced and hopeless love which was probably the principal cause that goaded poor Shaw to the commission of the murder and suicide.

On Saturday night, July 6, 1878, Clarence Shaw, aged nineteen years, an employee of the Conservative office, shot Matie Sherwood, twenty years old, daughter of Thomas Sherwood, and then shot himself. The shooting was done at the residence of W. S. Van Orsdol, sheriff of the county. They had gone there after supper, by appointment, to meet Miss Minnie Van Orsdol and Mr. John Evers. After conversing for a while the four started out for a walk. They had not gone far when the two couples separated—Clarence and Matie proceeding to the river for a boat ride. During the walk, the strange actions of both had excited the apprehensions of Mr. Evers and Miss Van Orsdol, and, after the former had gone to the river against their expostulations, the two latter hastened to the store, where Charlie Sherwood, a brother of Matie, was employed, and informed him of their fears concerning his sister and Clarence.

Charlie hastened to the river and got there just as Clarence was pushing the boat off. Charlie rushed into the water and pulled the boat to shore. He then told his sister to go home, and she started, Clarence accompanying her and Charlie following behind. They passed directly along Genesee Street until they arrived on the corner at Doctor Hunt's. Clarence then said that they must go to Mr. Van Orsdol's and get their things.

The narrative does not say whether anything had really been left there, or whether this was merely a ruse for the sake of carrying out the fatal program. However this may be, the three returned to Mr. Van Orsdol's. Clarence and Matie went in and Charlie remained at the door. After being admitted Clarence asked Miss Van Orsdol for some water to wash his hands, "as the rope on the boat had dirtied them." He was shown to a bedroom, which he entered, Miss Sherwood following. Miss Van Orsdol, after pouring some water into a bowl, stepped out for a moment, but scarcely had she gone six steps when she heard the report of a revolver twice. Charlie Sherwood rushed in and found them both lying across the bed, shot through the head. Matie lived about twenty minutes and Clarence about an hour after. Physicians were summoned, but nothing could be done.

Messengers were sent to inform the parents of the unfortunate young persons. We forbear to dwell on the sorrowful scenes witnessed when tidings of the terrible tragedy were imparted to the parents. The bodies, after being cared for, remained at Van Orsdol's until Sunday morning, when they were taken home.

The funeral of Shaw took place Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock; that of Miss Sherwood on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

How the thoughts crowded in upon our minds. Two days before who would have thought of such an event? Saturday evening on earth; Monday, the souls in eternity and the bodies in the cold grave. Sad the thoughts, sadder the scenes, saddest the stern reality.

Miss Matie Sherwood was a pleasant, interesting and engaging young lady—romantic, sympathetic. She moved in the best society, and had many warm friends. Her death, and the terrible tragedy connected with it, will long be felt in this community.

Of Clarence Shaw we wish to say a few words. Having been in our employ for four years, we believe our opportunity for knowing his character was better than that of any other person, excepting his parents. He came to us a boy, in

September, 1874. An almost daily intercourse with him from that time forward has led us to regard him only with the kindest feelings. He was strictly honest and temperate, and withal intellectual; and had he not become enmeshed in the toils of an infatuated love, we believe he would have made more than an ordinary man; but a morbid sentimentalism got the better of him, and one thing led to another until he struck down himself and the girl he worshipped. It was in this that he showed a weakness that surprises us.

Here we close our extracts from the *Conservative*, and let the curtain drop upon the awful tragedy. Whether it was Shaw\* who made the deadly assault upon Toman; whether Matie Sherwood was consenting to the sacrifice of her own life with his; whether he was of sound mind when the dreadful act was committed; and what amount of guilt rests upon the souls of both for its commission—are solemn questions upon which the grave has set its seal till the great day of final account. We shall not attempt to forestall the decisions of that day.

Mainly on account of the evidence adduced from the coroner's jury, Strohl was released from prison on his own recognizance, pending an appeal which had been taken to the Supreme Court. That court reversed the decision of the court below, and sent the case back for a new trial. But the District Court dismissed the case without a hearing. Rourke, of course, was never brought to trial.

One of the most brutal and appalling crimes in the history of Buchanan County—and perhaps none of greater horror ever occurred in the state—was discovered at 2 o'clock on Friday afternoon, November 24, 1905, on the farm of William S. McWilliams, located six miles southwest of Independence, in Sumner Township. The driver on the Jesup milk route stopped at the place to leave the monthly check, and knocking at the door received no response and the place seemed deserted. Thinking this strange, he peeped in at the kitchen window and discovered that the floor was literally covered with dead bodies, which he recognized as those of the mother and five children. He ran to the neighbors and telephoned to R. G. Swan, the coroner. The details of this grim tragedy are too grewsome to record. Suffice to say that all six victims had been struck on the head and their skulls crushed with an ordinary carpenter's claw-hammer and that each body had, in addition, been stabbed numerous times with a butcher knife.

As there seemed to be no motive for an outsider to have committed the horrible butchery, suspicion at once strongly centered toward the husband and father, William S. McWilliams, and search was at once instituted for him. He had been seen to leave the place about 3 o'clock Friday afternoon and ride northward. Sheriff Corlis telephoned to Marshal Mason to go to the home of McWilliams' father in the third ward and ascertain if he was there. Upon doing so he found him putting his horse in the barn and placed him under arrest. McWilliams took it coolly, saying that he had left the farm Wednesday and come to Independence to visit his father, and on Friday afternoon rode down to the farm on his horse and then discovered the bodies, and at once returned to Independence to give the alarm. He steadily denied all knowledge of the crime, ate and slept well and maintained a stoical indifference and showed no emotion, even when he viewed all the bodies of his murdered family, with the exception of the baby, when he manifested some feeling. McWilliams' shoes and old clothes were found in the house covered with blood and evidences that

an effort had been made to clean them. McWilliams's father at first expressed incredulity at the idea of his son having committed such a heinous crime, but after contemplation of his son's actions subsequent to the crime he came to the conclusion that he did commit the deed, as did also his other relatives, and they attributed the cause of his fiendish act to a sunstroke he had had when a young man, believing it to have unbalanced his mind.

After the examination of numerous witnesses, the grand jury returned an indictment against him; this was as the general consensus of opinion warranted, but the real sensation of the case was when Coroner Swan presented a signed confession from McWilliams, acknowledging his guilt and describing the manner of the crime. On the night before he had been subjected to a cross examination of the severest kind by the coroner's jury but without result, and persistently professed his innocence and ignorance of the crime, but after a night alone with his conscience, he had concluded that to confess would insure him some consideration by the court, so in the morning, after ten minutes interview, Mr. Swan extracted his confession. M. A. Smith, county attorney, prosecuted the case, and as the prisoner had employed no attorney to represent him Judge Blair appointed H. C. Chappell the unenviable and distasteful task of counsel for the prisoner. After McWilliams' confession, he became possessed of an abject fear that he would lose his own life and showed himself to be one of the most cowardly, suspicious and degenerate specimens of humanity that could be imagined.

Never in the annals of lawdom, in Buchanan County, was consummated a swifter meting of justice, for on Friday P. M., exactly two weeks after the crime was discovered, he was sentenced to be hanged at the earliest possible moment the laws of Iowa will allow.

Crowds of people packed the courthouse to its utmost capacity on the afternoon of the trial when sentence was to be imposed.

Attorney Chappell had had McWilliams examined by five physicians, four from Independence and one, Doctor Ingbert, of the "Iowa Insane Hospital," a specialist on mental diseases, and with only one exception they agreed that McWilliams was a paranoiac degenerate.

Doctor McGready maintained that he was a moral degenerate but entirely responsible for his crime. This testimony was submitted and Mr. Chappell then gave a powerful plea in his behalf with the only possible defense, that of morbid insanity, and strove to ameliorate his sentence (in accordance with the discharge of his duty to the court and to the prisoner).

Judge Blair then pronounced sentence and in his speech favored the opinion that, although McWilliams was a moral degenerate of the worst type, he was responsible for his atrocious crime, and therefore the death penalty was imposed.

McWilliams stood calm and benignant through the whole proceeding, betraying no emotion or by the slightest expression denoting that he was more than an attentive spectator of the tragical scene being enacted, while not a soul in that crowded court room but was intense and excited. Once, while he sat listening to the arraignment of evidence against him, he dropped his hat, which he was holding, on the floor and calmly and deliberately he reached down and picked it up; then when the judge ordered him to stand he calmly and

deliberately turned and laid it on his chair. Within one hour from the time he received sentence he was on board the Illinois Central train going East in custody of Sheriff Corlis and City Marshal Mason, and crowds of people thronged the depots at every station to get a glimpse of so fiendish a criminal, and all the way to Anamosa the prisoner was cheerful and disposed to be loquacious, but was discouraged in his efforts at conversation. He was put through the usual treatment accorded prisoners—measured, shaved and photographed and entered as Convict No. 5491, a second grade prisoner (with no particular distinction for his exceptionally brutal crime).

After a few weeks of incarceration, McWilliams became violently insane and suffered the tortures of the damned; sleeping or waking he was haunted with horrible hallucinations, and by the time for the execution of the sentence, he was a raving maniac and escaped the penalty of the law, having been adjudged insane by the Insane Commission of Jones County.

At one time during the afternoon of the trial a crowd assembled at the jail and had a rope ready, and many voices called, "Hang him, hang him," but no serious demonstration was made, probably owing to there being no leader fearless enough to head such a desperate act, but in all probability if Judge Blair had not imposed the death sentence mob violence would have resulted.

## CHAPTER XXX

### BANKS AND BANKING

#### THE PEOPLES NATIONAL BANK—THE COMMERCIAL STATE BANK

##### THE PEOPLES NATIONAL BANK

About the year 1874, the only banks in Buchanan County were the First National Bank and Francis, Jones & Ellwell at Independence, and R. O. Laird conducted an office of exchange at Jesup. At that time the only other banking facilities were at West Union, on the north, where the Fayette County National Bank had been organized about the time that the railroad had been built north from Cedar Rapids. Manchester, Cedar Rapids and Waterloo had banking facilities in adjoining counties.

In May, 1874, what is known as the big fire wiped out all the buildings on the south side of Main Street, and also the north side of Main Street, west of Chatham Street, and this included the building at the corner of Main and Chatham, occupied by Francis, Jones & Ellwell, who decided not to continue business longer. This left an opening for another bank. Mr. Edwin Ross was the moving spirit in the organization of a new bank, and sufficient stock was subscribed within a few days.

The Peoples National Bank was organized on September 17, 1874. Capital stock at that time was paid in to the amount of \$33,830.00, and the bank commenced business on October 21, 1874, with the following officers and directors: E. Ross, president; C. W. Lillie, vice president; J. F. Coy, cashier; J. W. Myers, teller. The directors were: E. Ross, C. W. Lillie, H. Burlingham, J. W. Myers, A. H. Trask, E. W. Purdy, August Myers, J. L. Winnegar and C. R. Millington.

Counters and office fixtures were at that time installed in the building on the north side of Main Street, now occupied by Swan & Leytze. The fire, in November, 1873, had burned the north side of Main Street, and Mr. A. Leytze constructed the four buildings now owned by the Leytze estate.

In July, 1875, the capital stock was increased to \$75,000.00.

In January, 1876, the first dividend, being 10 per cent, was declared, and dividends have been paid uninterruptedly since that time. During that year, Mr. C. Ickel constructed a building at the northwest corner of Chatham and Main streets, and the bank entered into a contract for the south fifty feet of this building, and moved into their new quarters in October.

The official statement of the bank, December, 1876, is as follows:

## RESOURCES

Loans .....	\$ 84,133.23
United States bonds .....	40,000.00
Bonds .....	5,137.50
Overdrafts .....	2,362.87
Cash .....	17,019.03
Deposited with banks .....	2,744.20
With United States treasurer .....	1,800.00
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$153,196.83

## LIABILITIES

Capital .....	\$ 75,000.00
Surplus .....	1,000.00
Undivided profits .....	3,236.19
Circulation .....	36,000.00
Deposits .....	35,401.11
Due reserve agents .....	2,559.53
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$153,196.83

In 1890, the first case of safety deposit boxes was installed in the bank vault for the convenience of customers.

On January 15, 1891, Mr. E. Ross died. He had served the bank as president, continuously from the time of its organization, and the bank suffered a great loss by his death.

At a meeting June 26th following, Mr. Thomas Edwards was elected president.

In 1900, Mr. S. J. Fisher was elected president, and Mr. J. F. Coy, having served the bank as cashier faithfully and acceptably since its organization, wished to retire from active work, and Mr. R. F. Clarke was at that time elected cashier.

In April, 1902, Mr. S. J. Fisher died. He had served the bank as director since 1881, and as president for two years. At a meeting soon after, Mr. Thomas Edwards was elected president.

In December, 1905, Mr. Thomas Edwards died, and the bank for the third time in fifteen years, suffered a loss by death, of its president.

At the January meeting, 1906, Mr. R. F. Clarke was elected president, and Mr. C. M. Roberts, cashier. Mr. Roberts resigned as treasurer of Buchanan County to accept the position.

In the spring of 1909, the matter of a bank building was taken up, and the building on the south side of Main Street, opposite the old location of the bank, at the corner of Chatham and Main, was bought of Dr. A. G. Shellito. At the time, the building was under lease, and possession could not be had, but during the summer this building burned and the bank, early in the fall, took up the matter of plans for the new bank building, with energy. The plans of different kinds of buildings were submitted, and the present attractive and convenient building is the outcome. Mr. H. E. Netcott was the architect, and had general



supervision of the building operations. The building was pushed to completion during the winter of 1909 and 1910, and in the spring of 1910, the bank moved into their very commodious quarters.

The amount of space available for banking business is more than double that it had been in the old quarters, and furniture and fixtures of mahogany and marble, make the rooms very attractive.

The bank front is of Bedford stone, supported by pure Corinthian columns. Light and ventilation are obtained from an airshaft of prism glass, about twenty feet across, extending from the ceiling of the banking room to the roof of the building. Two reinforced concrete vaults, of latest style of construction, are entered from the banking rooms. One of these is the safety deposit vault, and the other, for the use of the bank. These are fitted up with steel fixtures of latest pattern, and the funds of the bank are protected by latest pattern manganese steel safes, and also covered by burglary and hold-up insurance. A large storage vault is built in the basement. There are several rooms for the convenience of customers; the building is heated throughout with hot water and every convenience furnished.

Forty years ago, as stated in the beginning of this history, there was but one organized bank in Buchanan County. There were two private loan offices at that time. At the present time there are two national and seventeen state banks in the county. The combined capital and profits of these nineteen banks is about \$960,000.00, and the total deposits are about \$4,000,000.00.

The 1913 report of the comptroller of currency, shows the Peoples National Bank, of Independence, Iowa, as one of the forty-nine national banks in Iowa on the honor roll. Banks in this list are those whose surplus and profits are equal or exceed their capital.

The Peoples National Bank has always catered to the small depositor and small borrower, and their books at this time, show the names of more than two thousand customers, now doing business with the bank. The officers and directors of this bank have ever encouraged development in all lines in the community, and they are now representative, in that they are interested in nearly all lines of business in the locality. Especially do they feel that they should be interested in farming and allied industries, as this is essentially a farming community, and the bank's strength and growth must be acquired from this source.

The bank feels that it has enjoyed a full portion of the confidence of the people in this community and, while ever reaching out for new business, realizes that the old and time-tried patrons, who have made the splendid growth possible, are entitled to first consideration. While the growth of the bank has perhaps not been phenomenal, it has reflected the general prosperity of Buchanan County, which is its legitimate field of endeavor, and the few official statements inserted in this sketch, show the existing conditions.

This sketch would be very incomplete, should it leave out the names of Mr. D. B. Sanford, who presided over the books from 1886 to the time of his death, in 1894; also Mr. David Donnan, who served as teller from 1887 to 1907, when he moved West with his family.

The last published official report of the bank, to the comptroller of currency, follows, and shows continuous growth. It will be noticed that the Peoples National Bank has one-sixth of the capital and profits and one-sixth of the deposits of

Buchanan County. The officers and directors of the Peoples National Bank, at the present time, are as follows: R. F. Clarke, president; Thomas Searcliff, vice president; C. M. Roberts, cashier. Directors: J. F. Coy, Dr. R. E. Buchanan, A. Honck, D. S. Jones, C. G. Trask, M. S. Carver.

The last official report to the comptroller of currency is, as of March 4, 1914:

## RESOURCES

Loans and discounts .....	\$639,118.94
Overdrafts .....	18,800.88
Bonds and securities .....	81,659.97
Banking house, furniture and fixtures .....	21,000.00
Due from national banks not reserve agents .....	17,493.00
Due from state and private banks, trust companies and savings banks .....	11,745.18
Due from approved reserve agents .....	74,448.62
Checks and other cash items .....	10,749.00
National bank notes .....	420.00
Nickels and cents .....	242.51
Lawful money in bank .....	43,621.50
With United States treasurer .....	3,750.00
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$923,049.60

## LIABILITIES

Capital stock .....	\$ 75,000.00
Surplus fund .....	25,000.00
Undivided profits .....	55,371.39
National bank notes (outstanding) .....	75,000.00
Deposits .....	692,678.21
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$923,049.60

## THE COMMERCIAL STATE BANK

The Commercial State Bank, Independence, was first chartered, under the laws of the State of Iowa, in January, 1890. May 23, 1910, the charter was renewed. The first preliminary meeting was held November 11, 1889, twenty-five years ago. The two banks already established in Independence were national banks. The Commercial State was the third bank.

Previously to the first meeting the capital stock of \$100,000 had been purchased by some eighty-nine individuals, among them being E. Zinn, A. J. Barnhart, John Till, C. Borie, C. F. Herrick, William Lewis, E. W. Purdy, James Van Orsdol and R. O'Brien, all since deceased.

The first officials were: A. J. Barnhart, president; C. W. Williams, vice president; O. M. Gillett, cashier. Clark L. Cole was teller and George T. Blamer, bookkeeper. The board of directors included C. W. Williams, Dr.

A. G. Shellito, Elzy Wilson, James Van Orsdol, C. F. Herrick, A. J. Barnhart, E. Zimm, E. W. Purdy, R. O'Brien, B. W. Tabor and A. Cocroft. Of these A. Cocroft and Doctor Shellito are now members of the board.

The building, excellently located on the southwest corner of Main and Walnut (now Third Avenue, southeast) streets was purchased by the bank from E. W. Purdy, and after thorough remodeling became the home of the institution. A large fireproof vault was erected, sufficient space being provided for a separate compartment to be used as a safety deposit vault, an innovation for Independence, by the way, as the safety deposit boxes then provided were the first to be installed in the county. Fifty boxes originally were provided, many more having been added from time to time since. The interior furnishings of the bank were of up-to-date design, cherry being used throughout the main room. The building being large and commodious, customers and directors' rooms were provided. A good heating plant was installed. Harmonious wall and floor coverings completed the furnishing that placed the bank in the front rank in the way of well-equipped banking houses. A large picture of the famous Axtell graced the main office, and it still is a much prized wall decoration.

The bank started out under favorable auspices and from the first enjoyed splendid patronage. The management wisely voted to set apart a percentage of the net earnings each year until an ample surplus fund should be created, thus insuring the credit of the institution, and \$20,000 has been thus used. In addition, much of the earnings has been carried in the undivided profit account, and this account now totals \$35,000, making a combined capital, surplus and undivided profit account of approximately \$155,000. It is a source of great gratification that the credit of the bank always has been absolutely sound, that it never has been questioned, and that it had, and has, its part with the other banks of the city in maintaining the high place in the confidence of the public which all of these financial institutions occupy.

The Commercial's directorate uniformly has been composed of high-class business and professional men, and they have given much of their time and thought to this work. On the board at different times the following, in addition to the first board, have served: L. C. Tiff, J. Wackerbarth and L. F. Springer. The present incumbents are: A. T. O'Brien, H. W. Oliver, E. E. Hasner, L. C. Soener, A. T. McDonald, W. J. Davison, C. E. Purdy, J. E. Cook, O. M. Gillett, Dr. A. G. Shellito and A. Cocroft.

Mr. Barnhart, the first president, continued to serve until his resignation, March 5, 1892, at which time O. M. Gillett was elected, and which position he has since continuously occupied, filling the office with conspicuous ability. Successive vice presidents were E. W. Purdy, A. J. Barnhart, A. G. Shellito and J. E. Cook.

In April, 1892, following Mr. Gillett's resignation, C. M. Shillinglaw was elected cashier, and was a faithful and efficient officer until ill health compelled his retirement, April 13, 1899. To fill this vacancy Chas. E. Purdy was elected and his services as cashier continued until January, 1911, when he resigned and M. O. Fouts was elected.

After Clark Cole's resignation in April, 1890, W. G. Stevenson was elected teller, J. B. Steinmetz and Robert R. Plane being later incumbents. Bookkeepers have included George T. Blamer, Miss C. E. Lathrop, J. B. Steinmetz,

Harold Tabor, A. M. Donnan, R. R. Plane and Leon P. Davis, in the order named. The present force comprises O. M. Gillett, president; J. E. Cook, vice president; M. O. Fouts, cashier; R. R. Plane, teller; and L. P. Davis, book-keeper.

Below is appended a late statement of the condition of the bank as made to the state auditor June 30, 1914:

## RESOURCES

Loans, bonds and stocks.....	\$570,055.39
Cash and exchange.....	105,378.64
Overdrafts .....	4,068.19
Real estate .....	6,000.00
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$685,502.22

## LIABILITIES

Capital .....	\$100,000.00
Surplus and profits .....	53,348.50
Deposits .....	532,153.72
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$685,502.22

## CHAPTER XXXI

### INTERESTING EVENTS

#### AMUSEMENTS—CRIMES—DISASTERS

##### THE TOWN BELL AND FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION OF 1860

The town bell, like the town pump, deserves a chapter of its own in history as being an accessory, if not participant, in history making. These two necessary articles were about the first considerations of our forefathers. The town pump was installed in 1857 and the cannon in 1860, and that same year the editor of the *Guardian* suggests the propriety of providing for the convenience and pleasure of the citizens of the county seat both a cannon and a bell. In speaking of the bell he describes, with poetical effusion, the effect that the sweet silvery cadences of melody and song would produce. Told how it would revive tender recollections of other days, etc. But it was not this sentiment alone that culminated the proposition, for the actual necessity of a town regulator was perfectly evident to most of the citizens and the suggestion met with instant approval. The spark ignited by the newspapers had created a fire of enthusiasm. Every issue of the papers had suggestions as to the proper methods of raising the necessary funds and at a public meeting of the citizens, the idea of making the coming Fourth of July celebration a means for creating a "bell fund," without in any way marring the patriotic character of the day, met the enthusiastic approbation of all. So officers were elected and committees appointed to make all the arrangements, and at this meeting, the finance committee was authorized to procure a cannon and ammunition, that the day might be ushered in with a proper salute. The greatest preparations were made and everything worked out to a harmonious and splendid climax. Every man, woman and child in the county was urged to participate, and the proceeds from a big public dinner and a dance would be the nucleus of the "bell fund." Rev. C. Billings Smith, of Dubuque, was secured as orator of the day. The "old-time Fourth of July celebration," of which we have given some idea in our *Civil War Days*, has been so modified and temperized, that only by reading one of the programs can we imagine the enthusiastic patriotism of that by-gone era. It seems a sad state of affairs that it calls upon our powers of imagination and not experience or observation to picture such a scene.

We read with some astonishment and curiosity, a similar concern for the future lack of spirit and fervid patriotism which inspired those early celebrations, expressed by the former historian in contemplation of his own prosaic,

unexpressive times, and pray, what would he think of us now, with our utter lack of proper observance.

This historian thought to inscribe the celebration of 1860 in detail, in history to preserve it as a memento of pure, inspired patriotism, thinking that perhaps, though it might then seem of little historical consequence, yet at the rate of decadence in the observance of our National Independence Day, our next centennial may necessitate the rummaging of dusty and worm-eaten volumes of county histories and public records published during those simple and sincere times, in order to reproduce those ceremonies.

We will give but a few of the special features of this glorious Fourth, and let posterity work out its own salvation in regard to celebrations.

There were officers for every conceivable emergency and a gunner. At sunrise—a national salute of thirty-three guns, one for each state, under the direction of Samuel Sherwood—then a town salute of twelve guns, one for each year of the corporate age of the town, at 10 o'clock. At the firing of this salute a procession of all the officials of the day, the town dignitaries, the clergy, celebrated guests, different societies, common citizens, a carriage drawn by four horses loaded with young girls dressed in white, representing each state with appropriate banners, all headed by the brass band discoursing martial music, formed and marched through the principal streets of the town, to South River Street in the Third Ward, where the exercises were to be held. Here an excellent program was carried out.

From thence to the banquet board, where a bounteous dinner regaled the partakers, after which toasts were responded to by distinguished individuals from home and abroad. Places for 400 were laid, which proved to be insufficient for the crowd. After dinner there was another salute of eighteen guns—one for each hundred of the inhabitants.

And the day's festivities ended with fireworks and a grand ball at Morse's Hall. Everything was in readiness (in the West Side Grove) for the celebration several days in advance. A pole over one hundred and seventy feet high had been raised, and from its top a large and splendid flag floated to the breeze; a cannon weighing over four hundred pounds had been procured from the Rogers Brothers Foundry, at Quasqueton, and stood ready for the powder and fuse, and several balloons had been prepared by Messrs. Littlejohn and Hardenbrook. Everything seemed auspicious for a day of rare enjoyment—just such a time as John Adams recommends for the day; "rockets and racket, cannon and crackers, squibs oratorical, and squibs pyrotechnical, bonfires and bonnet, flags and flambeaux, dinner and drumming, music and merriment, graciousness and glorification." This particular day "we celebrate" was an ideal one, and people from all over the county began pouring into town. Spring Creek sent a delegation of seventeen well-filled wagons. Fairbank sent a delegation headed by a marine band and carrying a flag; a four-horse team, ornamented with Lincoln and Hamlin flags, brought Bray's Band and escorted a good sized representation from Pine Creek; horse teams, ox teams, mule teams, carriages and carts, buggies and buckboards, road wagons and rockaways, all came filled with old men and old women, youths and misses, boys and girls, small babies and large babies, all dressed in holiday attire and overflowing with the spirit of the day. "The boys naturally gravitated towards firecrackers and fun, the girls indulging in

cakes and candies, youths and misses in ginger bread and gossip; the young men and women took cream and courting, lemonade and love; the old ladies to purchases, and the old men to politics."

The program and oration were a grand success, and the fourteen specified toasts and the ten volunteer extemporaneous ones, were all fine and touched upon every phase and condition of popular patriotic sentiment. The prospective town bell was toasted, along with all the other civil interests. One toast responded to by Colonel Lake shows what prophetic minds those earlier patriots had. It was as follows:

"Uncle Sam—May he continue to grow until he takes his seat on the Isthmus of Panama, and with his feet resting on Cape Horn, his hat hung upon the North Pole, his left hand laid upon the West Indies, and with his right thumb to his nose, he gyrates defiance to the combined powers of the Old World."

In view of recent developments, that toast is particularly interesting, expressed as it was, over fifty years ago.

The day was unmarred by a single accident and from sunrise salute until the Home Sweet Home waltz, it was a day of unbroken enjoyment and a celebration of which the citizens felt justly proud: one long to be remembered and after fifty-four years—still recorded in history.

The amount raised for the bell fund was about one hundred and sixty dollars. This sum was increased by donations from entertainments, suppers, dances, etc., until, in the fall of 1860, a sufficient sum was collected to purchase it. The committee that had the matter in charge, ordered an iron bell from a Cincinnati foundry. If the committee were deceived into believing that an iron bell could possibly produce the requisite qualities of sweetness and sonorousness, the delusion had one palliation—it was by no means so expensive an experiment in metallurgy and acoustics as one of finer metal.

This bell weighed 1,650 pounds and cost \$175 in Cincinnati; a bell tower twenty-six feet high was erected on the south side of Main Street and early in December the first Independence bell was in position at a total cost of about two hundred and fifty dollars. The first criticism, after testing its quality, was that while the tone was perfectly satisfactory and could be heard distinctly several miles distant, it seemed to lack volume in the immediate vicinity, but this criticism was not to endure long, for after but a few weeks' service, it met a very unromantic and untimely fate. It cracked and became utterly worthless, "except for old iron" and although warranted for a year, when it was duly returned to Cincinnati, the committee were informed that the company had dissolved, and their guarantee was as worthless as their product. But the citizens had learned considerable about bells, and that it pays to buy only the best. This somewhat lengthy recital of rather an ordinary transaction is not so much to give prominence to this particular event as to give the present-day reader a glimpse into that early life with its interests and concerns; a touch of that whole-souled public spirit and enthusiasm which pervades all public enterprises of those early times and united those pioneers, heart and soul to the common cause. Such a spirit created our nation and such a spirit subdued the wilderness and started our metropolises. This indomitable spirit stirred the citizens to action rather than dismay over their loss when the first bell became broken and their immediate thought was to buy a new and better

one. Some of the Independence women had raised over one hundred dollars toward repairing the old cemetery, north of the I. C. R. R. depot, but when it was concluded to abandon that and establish a new one, they decided to give that as a nucleus for the new bell fund. During the interim between bells, Mr. William C. Morris, a public-spirited gentleman, bought and erected upon the roof of his store building on Main Street, at his own expense, a large triangle, such as was sometimes used back East as a cheap substitute for a bell, but this too eventually became broken and although its flat, metallic voice was anything but pleasure to the ear, it was a great convenience in this land of poor clocks and watches and the citizens sorely missed its guidance for church services and meal time. So long as the triangle was in existence, the need of a bell did not trouble the citizens and therefore the fund did not grow materially, but when this guiding voice was stilled, a fresh impetus was given the old bell project. Subscriptions were taken to which the citizens donated liberally. Various entertainments, suppers, fairs and dances were given, the proceeds to be added to the bell fund; a grand big picnic dinner was given on the lots where the Z. Stout residence now stands, but bells cost money and it took a great deal of time and energy to raise the necessary amount. Finally, through the concerted efforts of the entire populace, and particularly Mr. Morris and Mr. Ransom Bartle, the full amount of money was collected, and the bell was purchased from a celebrated bell foundry of Troy, New York. It arrived in Independence April 22, 1864, and with considerable pomp and ceremony it was conducted by the firemen, citizens and brass band from the depot to the new town tower erected for it, and placed in position where it became one of the permanent and reliable institutions. The tone was everything that could be expected, clear, musical and resonant, and it proved to be a very useful as well as a pleasurable possession. For years it was rung for the assembling of the firemen for drills, fires, drownings, church, school and meal hours, and until the waterworks whistles were established this bell was a most necessary adjunct to business, duty and trouble, sorrow and pleasure; it tolled for the living and tolled for the dead. This bell was much more expensive than the first one. It cost \$635, and weighed 1,000 pounds.

The possession of this bell was a just distinction for Independence in those early days, as no town west of Dubuque possessed one and even places much larger could not boast of a similar luxury. In 1866, the original bell subscriptions and owners held a meeting, and voted to deliver over the bell to the care and direction of the city. The city council accepted the gift and employed a man to ring it four times daily and at church hours at \$100 per annum. At a council meeting in 1869 they voted to put the bell and tower in the Court-house Square, but at a subsequent meeting rescinded the action and put it on the city lots, where it still rests in peace.

The old town bell still hangs in its belfry tower, silent and neglected. Its voice has been stilled, for these many years, but let us cherish its memory for the good it has done and we hope that some day it may be assigned the place of honor it deserves in the city, and as it was rung whenever the announcement of a Union victory reached Independence and at the emancipation of the slaves, let it be rung at the emancipation of women in this grand old State of Iowa.



## THE COUNTY SAFE ROBBERY

On the night of the 17th of March, 1864, the safe of the county treasurer's office was blown open and county, state and private funds to the amount of \$26,000 were stolen. The robbery was one of the boldest and heaviest ever committed in the state, and its announcement was a shock to the entire community. Everything indicated that the nefarious crime was the work of a gang of old offenders.

The safe, which was one of the old Lilly chilled iron patent, was a complete wreck; the ponderous door was thrown completely off, and fragments of the lock scattered about the room. Cases of record books were thrown down and deeds, mortgages and other valuable papers scattered over the floor. Under the debris were found the implements used to effect their purpose, which had been stolen from a blacksmith shop on Walnut Street—a sledgehammer, tongs, punch, and cold chisel. The building was doubtless entered by skeleton keys, and the safe opened by drilling a hole in the door and applying a slow match to powder.

Five hundred dollars was picked up from among the rubbish. None of the records or other papers were injured. The money taken was principally county funds and state taxes. The night chosen was exceedingly cold, with a high wind prevailing, which, with the isolated situation of the courthouse, prevented the explosion from being heard.

E. B. Older, county treasurer, promptly telegraphed to all available points, and \$1,000 was offered by the supervisors for the apprehension and conviction of the thieves, or the restoration of the money; and later the sum was increased to \$3,000, one-half for the detection of the criminals and one-half for the return of the money. Chicago detectives were employed under the direction of Captain Yates, but it was not until about the middle of July that any arrests were made. Then Sheriff Westfall brought four prisoners to Independence and lodged them in the county jail, charged with the great county safe robbery. One (Jones) was discharged at the preliminary examination. In the time which elapsed between the robbery and the arrest of these men, Capt. B. C. Yates, of Chicago, had been pursuing the matter with ceaseless vigilance, traveling hundreds of miles and assuming all sorts of disguises. He had been plowboy, wood sawyer, flatboatman, log rafter, and fisherman, following one of the suspected parties in a skiff over one hundred and fifty miles. The difficulties were greatly increased by the fact that the three robbers pursued widely different routes after the robbery. Such were the evidences that the right clue had been taken which led to the apprehensions, that from the first, great confidence was felt that the true culprits were in custody. The county officials, too, deserved great credit for the efficient and discreet course they pursued in the matter.

The prisoners were arraigned on Monday, July 25th, before Justice Barton, at the courthouse in Independence. They gave their names as Christian A. Roherbacher (arrested at his home, near Pilot Grove, Black Hawk County), William H. Knight (arrested in Dubuque), and Wallace R. Pollard (arrested at Marathon, Cortland County, New York). C. F. Leavitt, Esq., appeared as counsel for the defendants, and Wednesday following was assigned for an

examination. The bail was set at \$50,000, and the prisoners were recommitted to the custody of the sheriff. The three prisoners were brought before W. H. Barton, justice of the peace, for examination, on Wednesday, the 27th of July, the examination lasting nearly four days. The state was represented by Messrs. Woodward, Jamison and Chandler, and the prisoners had Messrs. Barker, of Dubuque, and Leavitt, of Independence, as counsel. The examination ended in holding the prisoners for trial in the sum of \$50,000 each.

Near the last of the month the prisoners had evidently resolved upon effecting their escape, thus adding to the evidence already strongly confirming their guilt. Knight not only slipped out of his irons, but had escaped through a window, and was discovered only in time to prevent him from making good his escape altogether. The other two were found during the same week with their irons off. Pollard showed himself a skillful mechanic in this line. At the trial Messrs. Chandler, of Independence, Watson, of Delhi, and Jones and Knox, of Chicago, were counsel for the state, and Messrs. Leavitt, of Independence, Barker, of Dubuque, and Preston, of Marion, were counsel for the defense. The trial took place at Delhi, in April and May of 1865, and the jury, after some hours' deliberation came to a verdict; the result was the conviction of Roberbacher and Knight, each being sentenced to the state penitentiary for the term of six years. Pollard was acquitted, and returned to the State of New York, where he is now living. Knight, who was suffering from pulmonary consumption, was pardoned by the governor after the expiration of a little more than three years of his term, on the grounds that there was strong belief that he was wrongfully convicted. Upon leaving the penitentiary, being penniless, sick and forlorn, his only hope was to seek Captain Yates, the Chicago detective, who had been instrumental in his conviction, and plead with him for mercy and assistance. Captain Yates gave him money to take him to New Orleans to recuperate his wasted health. From New Orleans he went to Texas, where he met Mr. Orton, the circus man, who furnished him means to come to Independence to die. When he reached Independence he was so worn and emaciated by disease that the citizens took him to the Montour House and there, with a true philanthropy that expected no recompense, he was kindly cared for by the generous landlord, Mr. E. E. Purdy and his wife and was administered to by Doctor Warne with all kindness and assiduity and without fee. The desire to vindicate himself was his one consuming thought. His earnest protestation of innocence up to the last moment of his life, with no possible motive of regard for the feeling or good name of surviving relatives, for he left not a single soul with whom he could claim kinship, appears as evidence of a clear conscience and greatly changed public opinion in his favor. Roberbacher was also pardoned about six months after Knight. He went to Kansas soon after regaining his liberty, and there established so favorable an opinion as to his honesty and intelligence, as to be elected to the Legislature of his adopted state.

The fact that these men, to all appearances, never enjoyed the money which they were supposed to have stolen, joined to the further fact that they were convicted mainly upon the testimony of paid detectives, who, however honest they may have been, could hardly fail to be strongly prejudiced against the men whom they had followed so long, and considering the liberality of the

reward, they were bound to produce a criminal—these facts, it cannot be denied, caused a strong reaction in the minds of many, after the excitement of the trials was over. It is probable that a large proportion of the community now have serious doubts if the convicted men were really guilty. On this point we have no opinion, but state the facts as we have found them.

The supervisors bought a safe to replace the one blown up and the hauling from the depot and putting in place was quite a gala occasion for the citizens of Independence, who turned out in force to behold the proceedings; but the excitement which this produced was nothing compared with that which transpired when, in February, 1870, the supervisors bought two immense safes at a cost of \$3,800—second-hand at that—they weighed 18,000 pounds apiece: took four teams and four wagons to haul them from the depot and held 100 volumes of records—and the supervisors were duly criticized and accused of graft—the frugal taxpayers deemed this a rank show of extravagance and an entirely unnecessary expenditure. One of these monstrosities still graces the sheriff's office, and what became of its twin brother we are not prepared to state.

#### THE OLD CANNON

The old original Independence cannon that was used on every Fourth of July and public celebration for many years and which boomed a "Godspeed" to the soldiers who went to the Civil war and the welcome when they returned did service for over forty years and it was stolen several times much to the discomfort of the Fourth of July committees, but was always recovered, one time being discovered in back of the buildings where the old calaboose was located. One time Mr. Lorenzo Moore was the perpetrator of this "stealing the cannon fad" and after weeks of diligent search its hiding place was discovered to be up by the Courthouse Park.

During the Civil war it was Colonel Heege's duty and privilege to fire this cannon on all public occasions and in late years Mr. Mike Goodwin and William Hughes have been the official cannoners.

When Company E went to the front it fired the salute and upon its return. The last time that it was fired was when the news that Admiral Dewey had landed in New York Harbor after his spectacular victory at Manila Bay, when Mr. Hughes and Charley Hathaway took the old cannon up to the old icehouse on the east side of the river and fired its last salute to American independence. It now reposes in a conspicuous place near the waterworks building.

#### THE CENTENNIAL CANNON

In 1876 another cannon was made. The citizens had long felt that the old cannon was not of adequate size and voice to assist in working off the excess of enthusiasm on occasions of public rejoicing and celebrations. Frank Megow, the energetic proprietor of the Star Foundry, conceived the idea of supplying this need by moulding and casting a cannon at his establishment entirely at his own expense. The operation being something entirely unusual in this vicinity it attracted more than ordinary interest and curiosity. His moulds were made and about 2,000 pounds of liquid metal poured in—and the next day, divested of its outside casing, a perfect cannon came from the mould.

It is about 5 feet long and 18 inches in diameter with a bore of 4½ inches. Much credit was due Mr. Megow for the energy, skill and public spirit he displayed.

The cannon was taken by Billy Hughes, Mike Goodwin and Hank Artus at 4 A. M. down to the southern part of the town about east of Oakwood Cemetery, where it was to be tested the night before the Fourth. His treasure had been blown to atoms, pieces of which covered the vicinity round about for blocks. The old manner of firing these cannons is worthy of mention. For the first charge a fuse was used and after that a hot rod about four or five feet long. This was a dangerous operation.

It was said that the dishes and brie-a-brac tumbled from the shelves in that vicinity like as if an earthquake had struck the town.

Perhaps a dozen charges had been fired with good result, but still the bang was not loud enough to suit the enthusiastic bombardiers, and the load kept being increased, and while Mr. Megow was home eating breakfast, a double load rammed in with sand and sod was injected and fired off. When Mr. Megow heard that tremendous report he feared the worst, and, alas! his fears were realized.

In 1870 B. F. Yates, the Chicago detective, employed for the county safe robbery, sued the county for pay. No written contract had been entered into at that time as to the compensation he should receive for apprehending the criminals. Up to the time of the meeting of the supervisors, some time after the robbery, he was paid \$6 per day and expenses, and then he proposed to work for the \$1,500 offered at that time, to which the board agreed if he would agree to work continuously, which he demurred to, but offered to work for \$5 per day and expenses. This per diem and expenses, amounting to \$1,500, had been paid to Yates, and it had been understood by the public and the agents of the county that this was all he was to receive for his services. But after the conviction of the robbers Yates claimed the reward of \$1,500 besides what he had already received, and upon the refusal of the board to accede to his demand, sued the county in the District Court of Delaware County. From Delaware the case was taken on change of venue to Bremer, where it was tried by jury and the verdict rendered was for Yates for the full amount claimed and interest. Adams & Chandler of Dubuque were the attorneys for Yates and L. W. Hart of Independence and Miller of Waterloo for the county.

#### A CITY MAP

In 1874 a new map of the City of Independence was gotten out by Mr. W. C. Willetts, of the firm of Waters & Willetts.

It was considered a very accurate one and was embellished with photographic views of the great Grange procession on the Fourth of July, 1873, and the ruins of the great fire, besides the cards of the principal business houses arranged around the margin.

#### PATENT RIGHTS

“Birds of feather flock together”—just so people of like temperament seek the same congenial atmosphere. Buchanan County seems to have been a regular

rendezvous for inventive geniuses. There certainly must have been a most lively microbe of ingenuity and of a very contagious variety germinating here, judging from the number of patents issued to the inhabitants of this small territory in a short space of time. Safe to say, no community of like size and population had greater numbers and probably not as many inventors as Buchanan County could boast. If "Necessity is the mother of invention," then Mother Necessity in Buchanan was the maternal ancestor of a very multitudinous, diversified offspring. After one person got well inoculated with the inventive microbe, it was not long until many more had been exposed and contracted the disease. The contagion raged in the most virulent form about the years 1861 and 1862, for within that time eighteen patents had been issued to the citizens of this county as follows: O. Sherwood, self-acting railroad gate; O. Sherwood, improvement in grinding mills; Langdon & Weitman, improved brooms; Langdon, Kellogg & Alexander, improved churn; Weitman & Hageman, wire upsetter; Vincent & Leslie, improved churn; Copeland & Martin, improved churn; Hugh Barr, improved churn; B. D. Reed, improved cockeye for harness; Beach, Day & Patrick, sugar evaporator; Matthias Hater, sugar evaporator; L. P. Haradon, grain distributor; and Alfred Ingalls, the Buchanan County wizard, had eight patents all of his own invention, as follows: A fire heater, iron upsetter, sugar evaporator, cane mill, rotary harrow, seed sower, corn husker and a rat trap, and innumerable other inventions in the embryonic state. All these patents would, according to their promoters, ameliorate and alleviate the labors of mankind and undoubtedly would be immediately adopted into general use; but fate, fashion or finance prevented this inventor's millennium.

Later on Mr. Ingalls, in connection with Smith & Clark, secured a patent for a sulky plow (this was a new, unique machine) which could be attached to any plow whereby the plowman could ride. These gentlemen gave public demonstrations of their invention through the streets of Independence on Saturdays. T. R. Cormick and Daniel Smyser, the latter a resident of this county, patented a corn cultivator. This consisted of four common plows attached to a frame mounted upon a couple of wheels and could be moved and guided by means of a long handle. All these crude and simple inventions were the forerunners of our present-day finished machine.

Alfred Ingalls also patented a grain drill, and a patent was issued to O. M. Pond for a grain drill, and to T. C. Bartle (through assignment from an Indiana company) for a sugar evaporator.

Another patent was issued to Ransom Bartle for an improved well curb, and one to Morris Todd for an improved broadcast seed sower. This made twenty-one patents issued to Buchanan County inventors inside of two years. Some of those mentioned came later.

Mr. Ingalls finally patented a machine that combined in a simple, compact form all of his previous patents—the grain drill, broadcast sower, corn planter, seed sower (sowing grain and grass seed at the same time, if needed), harrow and cultivator. This certainly was a combination of results and seems somewhat incredible, and surely if this had met with the success that was anticipated, the McCormick and Deering companies would probably be located in Independence, Iowa.

This man Ingalls had a happy faculty of convincing his audience, and the county editors were his staunch advocates and abettors. They gave him liberty to construct machines to eat, drink and breathe for people, but they entered a protest against his patenting an automaton to dance their Lancers, Virginia Reel and Money Musk.

All of his inventions were accredited with being the "best ever." His sugar evaporator elicited their unstinted praise and confirmation that it was the greatest improvement of the age, and far ahead of anything in the country in point of convenience and economy.

Mr. Haradon's grain distributor received much praise and found a ready market, at least in the grain elevators in town, where it was considered invaluable. The butter churn inventors assured their customers that a child could operate them and churning could be accomplished in from one to two minutes and in a common water pail or other convenient utensil. These glowing editorials go to prove that advertising is by no means a new and appreciated art.

At one time Mr. Ingalls had orders for about two hundred and fifty of his patent seed sowers. Marquette & McKenzie were manufacturing them.

In 1869 Mr. Samuel Sherwood invented a turbine water wheel. Public demonstrations were given to convince the doubters as to its merits. A company from Springfield, Ohio, manufacturers of the double American turbine water wheel, offered to put up \$5,000 to buy Mr. Sherwood's wheel if it proved better than theirs if Mr. Sherwood would put up \$5,000 to pay them if their wheels proved better than his, \$1,000 of the money to be given to some benevolent institution in Independence in person or by agent. Mr. Sherwood responded to the proposition, offering \$1,000 to the company if they would come out and prove their superiority with a demonstration, and would guarantee to purchase from them all the wheels necessary for the mill. These water-wheel tests, to determine the superior qualities of the one over the other, continued for two or three years, and at other places than Independence, and each one but proved the superiority of the Sherwood invention. In August, 1870, one was held at Waterloo in which four different wheels competed, and the result was decidedly in favor of Mr. Sherwood's. The proposition to go to Waterloo was made to him by these several parties, and he not only accepted the challenge, but built at his own expense a race and flume and erected machinery for testing. His liberality was not without reward, though, for it won him many friends.

#### DISASTROUS FIRES

Independence, like most other cities of any size and consequence, has been visited by sufficient calamities to mark the different epochs of her historical career. A constant, unretarded progression may be the best growth, but there is nothing that makes such rapid and conclusive changes as the revolutionary reactions of disaster, and although we are not advocating such direful measures, certainly history has proven the fact that "out of defeat springs triumph." After every crushing misfortune has arisen that overmastering ambition and determination which has built better and wiser, a magnificent monument erected upon the funeral pyre of past vanities.

And Independence, after the disastrous calamity of 1874, rose triumphant over the ruins, a far better and more substantial city. Hers was the common fate of all and she had endured her full share of fire, flood and disease in previous years, but nothing could compare with the disastrous, devastating fire of 1874, which left her almost a complete ruin. On March 9, 1866, occurred what was considered a serious conflagration; fire broke out in a frame building on the north side of Main Street, next the bridge, and in half an hour the whole block was in ruins. Three business firms and two families lost nearly everything they possessed, a total loss of \$8,500, which was most disheartening to these young business men just starting; but immediately subscriptions were taken and the losers were helped to get on their feet again, and in just one week after the buildings were totally consumed they were again doing business in new establishments.

Then again in six years another and far more destructive fire occurred in Independence. On November 2, 1873, all the buildings on the east side of Chatham, between Main and First streets, northeast, and on the north side of Main Street, between Second Avenue, northeast, and the building now owned by C. A. McEwen and occupied as a candy kitchen, were destroyed. In all, ten business houses, at a loss of \$30,000.

Fire was discovered about half past 11 o'clock Friday night in a woodshed attached to the rear of the Leytze Block. This was soon consumed and it spread to that block and consumed it, and from that point spread in two directions—up Chatham Street toward the north and up Main Street toward the east. The only means to fight the fire was a hand engine attached to the public cistern at the corner of Main and Walnut streets, and when all was ready, the hose laid and the firemen at their posts, it was discovered that the machine would not work, owing to the valves being frozen, and thereafter the machine was useless for any practical purposes. But for this unfortunate circumstance the conflagration would undoubtedly have been confined to the Leytze Block and the adjoining buildings. The hook and ladder company worked heroically, trying to check its fury by tearing down wooden buildings in its course; but without any mechanical assistance, their efforts seemed almost futile. The fire raged and increased in fury until it reached the high three-story brick wall of the Munson Block, and its further progress was stayed. The flames leaped and surged against this opposing force, but after a time gave up the struggle, and abated into a smoldering heap of coals. This was in reality a long anticipated and dreaded calamity, owing to the many wooden structures in that block, and not until some such catastrophe happens can people be educated to the fact that they must improve their methods of building. Here again the losers were encouraged and aided financially to rebuild their businesses, and with this substantial backing were just making a start when the second and far the worse catastrophe knocked the very foundations from under those business concerns who had so generously offered to assist them.

Public sympathy always was of a most substantial nature in those early days; and in the fire of 1874 the sympathy was just as sincere, but practically everyone in Independence was in the same dilemma and charity began at home. But several of the grange organizations in the county adopted resolutions extending sympathy and financial aid and promising their hearty cooperation to

rebuild the city. And W. W. Cole, a former resident of Independence and then manager of the "Great New York and New Orleans Zoological and Equestrian Exposition," which was to show in Independence June 12th after the fire, gave a liberal share of two performances to the fire sufferers. Both of the railroads were very generous in deducting from their freight bills on all merchandise and building materials shipped to those who had suffered loss of property in the fire.

When you stop to consider that in November, 1873, only six months previous, more than half of the north side of Main Street, all the buildings between Chatham and Walnut streets, had been burned, some idea can be formed of the ruin and desolation that existed throughout the entire extent of what had been the business portion of our city. This fire of 1873 had been regarded as a serious check to the business interests of the town, and it is no wonder that at first this second visitation of woe almost overwhelmed those sturdy, courageous business men who had risked their fortunes with those of the little pioneer city and had waited long and patiently to reap the promised returns of their ventures.

And that the city so speedily recovered from that lamentable disaster, and more than redeemed her former prosperity, is ample proof of the genuineness and superior abilities of her loyal citizens and further proves that "there is a destiny that shapes our ends"—Independence had been born to live. In the same weekly issue with the account of the fire, appeared the public assurance of most of those men whose business houses had been totally destroyed that they intended to rebuild, not only much better, but many more stores.

The account of this destructive conflagration was faithfully and graphically written in the first issues of both the Bulletin and Conservative, printed after an involuntary suspension of just one issue, which showed a most remarkable display of energy and enterprise. In this appalling calamity which had wrecked such universal disaster, no business interests had wholly escaped damage, and the press, so far as its means of communicating with the public was concerned, was most effectually wiped out of existence. All that remained of two well-provided and well-stocked printing offices at daylight on the eventful morning was a few broken founts of type, the rest being represented by a heap of smoking debris. And under these adverse and discouraging circumstances, that the papers were compelled to intermit but one regular issue, that being supplanted by voluminous "extras," was therefore a source of gratification and pride to the publishers and of congratulations to the public.

While yet the flames were crackling and hissing among our finest business blocks, the editors measuring the full extent of the calamity that had befallen the city and appreciating the fact that the only way to overcome it and rise superior to these transient reverses and material defeats was the maintenance of the most unfaltering courage, founded upon invincible faith in the future of the city, were willing to set an example in this regard and show true faith in their works. So they started for Chicago, Mr. Toman on the day of the fire, Mr. Barnhart the next day, without money and with no definite idea of the extent of their resources to purchase new material for the re-establishment of their papers, not stopping to discuss the probable effects of the calamity upon the business. All the business men with whom they had dealt were sym-





SCENES IN INDEPENDENCE BEFORE AND AFTER THE FIRE



pathizingly interested in the details of the disaster to Independence and were ready and willing to extend any aid in their power, expressing their confidence in the ability of the merchants and property owners to rally from their great misfortune. The credit of the business community had not been shattered in the least.

The enterprising editors: William Toman, of the *Bulletin*, and Mr. Warren Barnhart, of the *Civilian*, each purchased an entire new outfit, immediately set them up, and commenced business with the "extras" which we have mentioned. Mr. Toman's editorial in the first regular issue expressed the sentiment of both papers, but as no copy of the *Conservative* of that date is available, we quote from the *Bulletin*. "The *Bulletin* is again an entity, and notwithstanding all that comes in the shape of ordinary dispensations, proposes to live and to chronicle the rise of our fair young city, from the ashes of her sorrow to a higher place of prosperity and a larger growth than before. We have implicit confidence in the recuperative power of our community, and we only ask our fellow citizens to realize, that though crippled, we are by no means ruined. Let us admit of no unprofitable repining, but put our shoulders to the wheel, and from the uncomfortable distinction of the 'most unfortunate City of Iowa,' let us earn the reputation of 'the pluckiest.'" With this pronouncement, breathing a spirit of calm determination and confidence in the future, which could not fail to inspire and encourage the prostrate community, the *Bulletin* wielded a great influence. From its columns this official report of the conflagration is gleaned. (All files of the papers previous to that date, except those owned by individuals and are not complete, were destroyed in that fire, which accounts for the lapses in some of the historic data.) The fire, which was the most destructive from a monetary standpoint, that had ever, up to that date, occurred in the history of Iowa, commenced at 2 o'clock, Monday morning, May 25th, in a frame building on Chatham Street, south of, and adjoining the Burr Block (about opposite to where the postoffice and barber shop is now located), and occupied by Mrs. Elis Brown, as a millinery store and residence. A family by the name of Holt also had rooms in the second story.

These families were aroused from slumber by the night watchman and before they had time to dress, the fire had communicated with the outside stairway, cutting off all egress. In this dilemma Mr. Holt, acting with calm, superior judgment, seized a mattress and threw it to the ground, and they all in turn leaped from the burning building onto the mattress and escaped without injury from the fall.

The fire swept southward toward Main Street with amazing rapidity, the old, dry frame buildings were consumed like straw. The firemen were quick to respond to the first alarm and got the hand engines to work without delay, but with no appreciable effect.

The flames soon communicated with the Burr Block and in an incredibly short time that fine structure, including four stores and the St. James Hotel, was a raging furnace. A new steam engine, lately purchased by the city, had arrived but a day or two previous and was awaiting the coming of the general agent for trial and acceptance by the city. When the fire began to assume formidable proportions, it occurred to our competent engineer and machinist, Dick Guernsey, that this machine was not fulfilling its destiny lying idle in the engine

house. So, with the assistance of some of the crowd, he took it to the river in the rear of the Burr Block, filled its boiler by means of a garden pump, lighted the fire, attached the hose, and ran the steamer to its utmost capacity during the remainder of the night, doing most efficient service. When it is remembered that the engine had neither steam nor water gauges attached, and was operated by Mr. Guernsey entirely without means to indicate the pressure or state of the water in the boiler, and at imminent risk of his life, the heroism of the act will be realized.

The new steamer, under these unfavorable circumstances, behaved admirably, and more than realized all the good that had been promised of it. It was undoubtedly the sole agency by which property of many times more value than the cost of the machine was saved from the flames. The lumber yard of Benton & Company, on the opposite side of Chatham Street from the St. James Hotel, was on fire several times, but was promptly extinguished by the strong and steady stream of water from the steamer. Had it burned, the conflagration would without doubt have swept through the square, consuming the Munson Block, the First National Bank Building and other valuable property. The march of the devouring element toward Main Street was resistless, successfully taking four more stores and a bank, situated on the corner where the Iekel Block is now. The proprietors of these last named establishments saved a part of their goods. At this point the conflagration began to assume gigantic proportions. The entire block, consisting of the Wilcox Building and two other buildings on the north side of Main Street, between Chatham and the bridge, was of wooden structure, and soon became a seething mass of flame and fully verified the common prediction that it was a veritable fire trap. It burned with a fierce intensity and carried destruction to everything in its vicinity. This block contained four stores, the second story being occupied by several different concerns. Most of the occupants had removed their goods to the bridge, where they were heaped in the utmost confusion, and as the surging flame advanced, they were again removed to a place of safety. The wind, which was but a gentle zephyr when the fire commenced, became a brisk breeze from the northwest, and consequently sealed the fate of South Main Street. It fanned the blaze and sent an avalanche of burning cinders across the street and soon the fine three-story brick block, magnificent in those days, was in the grasp of the insatiable monster. This block, also the property of the Wilcox estate, was occupied by six stores on the first floor and six establishments, among them the library, on the second floor and the Masonic and Firemen's halls on the third floor.

Much of the goods which had been removed from these buildings, through miscalculation of the intense heat, was burned, although thought to be in a place of safety. When this block became engulfed in the raging sea of flame, the calamity seemed to have reached its climax of terror and destructiveness, because this splendid building was the pride and boast of our little city; no interior city in Iowa contained so fine a structure, but regrets were in vain and when the fiery demon had spent his fury on this noble edifice it proceeded to satisfy its lust for ruin on the brick building next the bridge, which was occupied by a music and millinery store, a law office and the Odd Fellows Hall.

It was hoped that the high brick wall on the east side of the Wilcox Block would be a barrier to the flames in that direction and this might have been the case but for the frame warehouses and old shanties in the rear of these buildings, all the way to the Montour House (at the corner of Walnut and Main), where the Commercial Bank now is. These served as a choice morsel to the avaricious appetite of the monster and the flames devoured them with incredible fierceness and speed; then the buildings in front, one after the other were entirely gutted. The march of the destroyer was steady, persistent and resistless; this block was occupied by thirteen stores, the opera house, the Montour Hotel, and both the Bulletin and Conservative offices, all of which were totally destroyed; then two livery stables in the rear were soon masses of smoking ruins. While all this was transpiring on Main Street, the buildings on the south side of that block, including the German Presbyterian Church and five residences, were completely destroyed, leaving that entire block bare of everything, except here and there the broken fragments of wall standing like sentinels over the ashes of the dead. The new engine, drawing water from a cistern at the corner of Main and Walnut streets, kept the roof of the furniture store across the street (where the Tidball department store is located) wet, thus saving it and the whole southeastern portion of the city. At 6 A. M. the fire was finally subdued, but in those four hours that elapsed after the sharp stroke of the town bell aroused our citizens from their peaceful slumbers, fully nine-tenths of the most valuable business places with nearly an equal proportion of the stocks of the merchants, were but smoldering heaps of ruins. Thirty-nine business houses, two hotels, one church, five dwellings, and two livery stables were included in the terrible disaster. Independence, in proportion to her wealth, was worse smitten than was Chicago on her memorable disaster of three years previous, but great as was the calamity, it is a subject for sincere congratulation and great wonder that no loss of life occurred, though there were several narrow escapes. One particularly miraculous escape was that of Mr. Clarence Fonda, then a young boy. He had been sent to the west side of the river with a span of horses, to bring over the old fire engine. When he reached the bridge he found this impracticable on account of the wall of fire that rendered Main Street on the east side of the river a veritable avenue of flame, so he mounted one of the horses and imprudently attempted to run through the fiery furnace. As he came opposite the Wilcox Block, where the fire was raging the fiercest and the heat was most intense, it was noticed that the boy's clothes began smoking and the noble beast cringed in the scorching blast; the horse never faltered and bore him safely through, though both horse and boy were severely burned. A momentary halt and both would have undoubtedly succumbed.

Two nights after the fire of which we have written, the citizens were again called from their beds by the clang of the fire bell. About half past 11 o'clock on Wednesday evening, May 27th, the Star foundry and machine shop owned by Frank Megow was discovered to be on fire. The steam fire engine being disabled, and the fire, having, before discovery, got a fair start in the dry wooden foundry building, all efforts to stop it were futile. The greatest excitement prevailed in consequence of this second fire. Many believing that their theory of systematic purpose of an incendiary to burn the entire city, was con-

firmed. Yet the majority of people entertained no such conclusion and attributed it to accident if not carelessness.

It was but natural that these terrible catastrophes should first fall with stunning effect upon our people. This feeling was but temporary, however, the first shock past, it gave place to a hopeful courage and an indomitable determination to conquer an adverse fate, which led the people, before the ashes were yet cold, and while the ruins were yet smoldering, to make preparations for rebuilding a large part of the burned district, and the business interests not only recuperated, but greatly advanced in astonishing degree.

The combined loss of the different establishments was \$545,000, covered by insurance to the amount of \$233,400.

Of the business men who went through that fire and are still in business only three remain, they are John Gorman, Byron Tabor and John Barnett, Sr., and of the fifty or more business houses, which have continued and are still represented in name at least, are John Gorman's tailor shop, the Tabor drug store, Wallace drug store, Barnett dry goods, O'Brien dry goods, Plane's hardware, Steinmetz's shoe store, Iekel's shoe store, Burke's barber shop and the Bulletin and Conservative offices. The public library was a complete loss, nothing was saved but the record books and those books in the hands of patrons.

On the night of the 10th of September, 1885, a disastrous fire took place near the B. C. R. & N. Railroad (now the Rock Island) depot, when a large elevator belonging to Kenmerer & Lamb burned to the ground, a \$12,000 loss, with \$8,750 insurance; twelve freight cars and lumber valued at over two hundred dollars, besides a lot of fat hogs which were in the stock yards awaiting shipment.

#### CIRCUS MEN OF INDEPENDENCE

At one time Independence was a rendezvous for circus men and circuses and probably could claim the distinction of having fostered more circuses than any other town of equal size in the United States. In the early days scarcely a week went by but Independence was visited by some small circus.

P. A. Older was the original circus man, starting out with a small circus, consisting of "a few trained and untrained animals and birds of beautiful plumage." Afterwards he went over into Wisconsin and became general manager of "Mabies Great Menagerie and Show." This circus visited Independence several times in 1862, and Romeo, one of a pair of big elephants, went through the old wooden bridge and was laid up for repairs here for some weeks. Afterwards, in 1869, he managed the Yankee Robinson Circus through a very successful campaign. In the winter of 1870, P. A. Older bought and shipped a large amount of fine stock from this county to his new menagerie then being collected at New Jersey. At one time he shipped a carload of horses from here. The circus was to travel westward with the intention of going into winter quarters in Independence at the close of the season. Three young Independence men went with the company: J. B. Turner as treasurer, and J. M. Chandler and Anson Sweet as advertising agents. Worthy Wallace also went as advance agent. The last performance of "Older's Grand Museum, Circus and Menagerie" was given at Independence, October 27, 1870, and then the circus went into retirement for several months. The horses were pastured at the

Morse farm, 2½ miles northeast of Independence, and the caged animals were housed at the stone barn on East Main Street, known as the Jones & Raymond Livery barn.

That winter he erected a large barn for training purposes just back of the stone barn, this was partially torn down and converted into a stable when the livery business was first established there. later he built one east of the brick stores in the same block and the third one in the southeast corner of the same block, also some sheds which did service for succeeding circuses which wintered here. The old "ring barn" as it was called and the sheds stood intact until the Independence Lumber Company moved their yards into that block some five years ago and tore them down. On September 20, 1871, he suffered a severe loss when his horse tent took fire at Reedsburg, Wisconsin, and burned forty-four horses to death.

Mr. Older was exceedingly generous to his old home town. In May, 1872, he gave one-half of the receipts from one exhibition of his circus at Independence to the city to purchase a fire engine, which amounted to \$307. Later, on a southern circuit, Older's show encountered the yellow fever plague and was kept in quarantine for weeks, which wrecked the finances of the proprietor and finally disbanded the company.

Miles Orton, another show man, lived here and wintered his animals in the old Jones & Raymond livery barn on East Main Street. He, too, was generous to Independence, and when he showed here in 1862, he gave a benefit performance for the Soldiers' Aid Society. After the war, he managed Barnum's circus, took it on what was intended to be an extensive trip through the South, but encountered the yellow fever plague; their employees took sick, and it proved to be a disastrous venture, and finally the circus disbanded.

Mr. W. W. Cole, a former resident of Independence, at one time owned a circus and menagerie. In 1873 he was manager of "the New York and New Orleans Zoological and Equestrian Exposition." On June 12th of that year it showed at Independence, just eighteen days after the big fire and his sympathies were so touched by the misfortune that he advertised to give a liberal share of both performances to the poor who had suffered from the fire.

J. B. Gaylord, for many years and until his death a resident of Independence, was a showman of wide experience and much renown in his peculiar profession as collector of, and dealer in, wild animals. For nearly thirty years he traveled all over the world, from the frozen zones of Siberia and northern Russia to the wilds of South Africa and South America and was as much at home in the jungles in India, in Australia and those South Sea Islands as he was on the streets of Independence. He was probably more familiar with those thousands of islands that border on the China Sea than with his own state. He bought animals for Barnum's, Ringling's, Forepaugh's and in fact all the big circuses.

In 1874 Robert Fryer, an Independence man, was equestrian director of Stevens & Begun's Menagerie and Circus. Later he had a dog and pony show and wintered and trained his animals in the old Older barns on East Main Street. He established his animal training school here in 1876 or '77. In the winter of 1881 he had fifteen animals which he was engaged to exhibit in connection with "Coup's Celebrated Combination Show," for which he got \$250

per week. He only trained horses, ponies, goats and dogs, and was very successful in that line. Many of the feats of intelligence and ability which these animals were taught to perform were original, ingenious, instructive and extremely amusing.

In April, 1899, P. A. Older, the old-time showman, again visited Independence. He soon attained a prominence in that business hardly second to P. T. Barnum, and his wealth was computed in the hundreds of thousands. While touring the South, the show was tied up at Shreveport, Louisiana, by the yellow fever scourge, and before the quarantine was raised Mr. Older's capital had disappeared, but he struggled on gamely, and in the face of repeated disaster refused to give up until venture after venture had gone against him and he was hopelessly stranded in 1899. He was making his home in Dubuque, and his many old Independence friends were interested in his welfare. He died some years ago.

Another of the old timers of the show business was in Independence renewing acquaintances in May, 1899. This is George Smith, animal man for P. A. Older. Mr. Smith traveled with the Older shows for many years, starting from here with it in the '70s and wintering here after each season. In the days of the old-fashioned wagon shows he was an acknowledged expert in his line and the subject of discussion of every Independence youth. When the railroad show came into being he went to Chicago and for years had charge of the horse farm for the street car company. Here again modern methods interfered with his livelihood and with the advent of the cable and electric cars he went to the stockyards and has since been connected with a firm of horse dealers.

Independence has probably harbored more circus men and entertained more circuses than any other town of its size in the United States, and the Lexington of the North was their headquarters and home.

It was during the '60s that the famous millionaire showman, W. W. Cole, was a resident of Independence and was engaged as a clerk in the dry goods store of August Meyers. It was during the session of the old Dan Orton show that Cole left here. His mother, also a resident, and a member of the famous Cooke family, traditional in circus annals, was married to Miles Orton at the time of her residence here. This famous show consisted of the following roster: Old Dan Orton, manager; Young Dan Miles, Irene, Leon, Ira, and Mrs. Miles Orton (nee Cole, nee Cooke) were the performers and gave the entire performance from start to finish. In the language of showmen it was a "family show."

The next aggregation to locate here was the P. A. Older circus, museum and menagerie, at that time one of the largest companies on the road. It was P. A. Older who first introduced an exhibit, that mammoth fraud of all frauds, the Cardiff Giant. Such people as James Hutchinson, famous at one time as a member of the great circus firm of Barnum, Bailey & Hutchinson, was a lithographer of the Older show and made Independence his home during the winter season.

Jacob Showles, William Showles, a famous bareback rider with Sells Brothers; Fred Watson and wife, George Holland, brother of Ed Holland, proprietor of the Old Van Amberg show; Jerry Hopper, the clown; Harry Lambkins, one



of the cleverest all-around performers of his time, and who died many years ago at the City of Aspinwall, Panama; Old George Castello, then Castello & McMahon; the Kincaid family, Sam Sanyeah, Mme. Sanyeah, the first female gymnast to exhibit in America; Billy Madden, the clown, all of whom made this city their home during the winter months and practiced their respective acts in the spacious ring barn of P. A. Older.

Robert W. Fryer, conceded by the profession to be par excellence as a horse educator, lived here for many years, until broken down in health, when he returned to his boyhood home in North Carolina, in the early '90s. He was respected and liked by all of those who knew him.

Barney Gaylord, better known in the profession as "Deefy," was a resident of Independence for fifty years. Mr. Gaylord was the first man to pilot a circus to Australia, namely, the Cooper & Bailey show, and a few years later also successfully guided the W. W. Cole show through the antipodes, both shows returning to America with "barrels of the useful." He was also the man who secured the white or sacred elephant of Burmah for the Barumm show. To say that Mr. Gaylord had a residence, if a man can be said to have a residence whose business kept him operating between the four corners of the earth, but the lodestone of his much respected family remains among us and draws him hitherward at irregular intervals. C. F. Campbell, the advance agent, was also one of our community, and we could name a host of lesser lights who followed the fortunes of the white tents, who made this their anchoring spot during the cold weather.

#### HORSE RACING AND BREEDING

As early as 1866 Independence evinced a great interest in horse racing. Most of the races then took place in the winter on the river. Scarcely a Saturday but a race was pulled off and great excitement prevailed. Trask & Sherwood were the principal contestants to honors. The first real claim to notoriety that Independence could justly hold, was when a horse named Sleepy John, owned by Mr. Trask, of Independence, won the sweepstakes at numerous places in 1870, and 1871 at Dubuque, Charles City and Kalamazoo. For several years he was the fastest horse in this part of the country. The first races conducted by the Agricultural Society, were on May 27, 1871, when two trotting matches were held, with the citizens donating the purses; then on the 4th and 7th of July races were held. The first real horse racing organization of Buchanan County was the Driving Park Association, organized in Independence, August 11, 1873, and the following officers were elected: D. S. Lee, president; A. J. Bowley, vice president; Jed Lake, secretary; W. R. Kenyon, treasurer; and H. Burlingham, marshal. The executive committee consisted of the officers and T. F. Curtis and H. A. King. The first meeting held by this association was on the 21st and 22d of August, 1873, at the fair grounds, west of town. The purses aggregated \$1,100. A great deal of interest was manifested in these races. There were thirty-three entries made, many of which were from outside the county. The programs consisted of trotting, pacing and running races, and the classes varied from horses that had never beaten 3:15 to those with a record not less than 2:34. The best time made at this meeting was 2:34¼.

At all the agricultural fairs, racing was a predominant feature. As far back as 1881 the managers realized that they were essential to the success of a fair, as was demonstrated by their offering liberal purses to bring some of the western flyers to Independence.

#### RUSH PARK AND THE KITE-SHAPED TRACK

The famous race track at Independence was the first kite-shaped track of any note to be built. The land on which it was located was bought by C. W. Williams, of Edwin Cobb, late in the fall of 1889. Mr. Williams paid \$12,000 for the 120 acres. Ground was broken at once for the track which was laid out by Engineer A. D. Guernsey and so accurately was his work done that it was never found necessary to change a stake and when the track was completed, it was found to be measured to rule 3 feet from the pole or inside fence, 1 mile and 6 inches in length. The weather was so propitious that although work was not begun until November, the grading was practically completed before the frost compelled the cessation of the work.

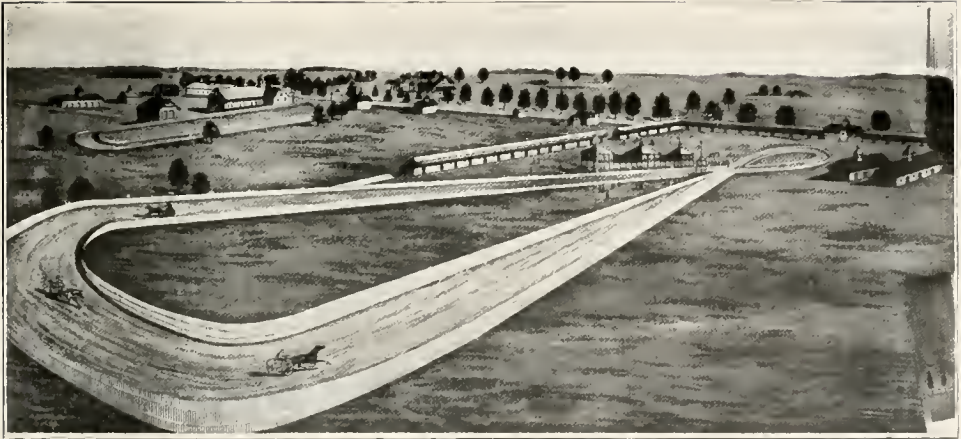
Early in the spring of 1890, with his characteristic vigor, Mr. Williams renewed operations. A small army of workmen was kept busily engaged on the track, erecting barns, stalls, and fences and the last week in August, the track was inaugurated with a five days' meeting at which \$20,000 was disbursed among horsemen. The inaugural event was a grand success in every way. Horsemen and spectators were alike loud in their praises of the hasty young northern rival of the southern mecca of harness horsemen, Lexington, and the names of Williams, Independence, and the kite track were on every tongue. Trainers had flocked here until the sale of leg-wash, blister ointment and other horse medicines had become one of the chief sources of revenue of our drug stores and Independence harness shops were veritable trotting horse-goods emporiums, while roseate views of coming greatness pervaded the waking hours and tinted the dreams of our people.

Early in 1891 Mr. Williams began his preparations for giving a race meeting that should eclipse all previous horse racing meets. One hundred thousand dollars was offered in stakes and purses—a sum never before, anywhere, approached by even the wealthiest and most influential associations in the country. Generously the horsemen responded to the call for entries and long before the opening day it was evident that Rush Park, with its 400 stalls, would not furnish accommodations for the entered horses. Barns and stables in all parts of the town were drawn upon and even with this addition barely enough could be obtained to supply the demand. The meeting opened Monday, August 22d. All anticipations of its greatness were eclipsed in realization. In the vast crowds that passed through the gates, and in brilliancy of its racing events, it stands today without a rival in the history of harness racing. The capacity of the city to feed and shelter the immense throngs of people was taxed to its utmost and proved inadequate.

The number of people upon the grounds that day is variously estimated between twenty and forty thousand, and standing room where the races could be seen had all been taken before the first race was called. It was at this meeting that the very memorable contest between the two great five-year-olds, Allerton



CHARLES W. WILLIAMS



ALLERTON



AXTELL

RUSH PARK



and Nancy Hanks, for a stake of \$5,000, took place. It was a never to be forgotten week in Independence. Thieves, pick-pockets and skin-game gamblers, drawn here by the hope of plunder, plied their avocations almost unmolested, and many a deep drawn sigh of relief and many prayerful "Thank God that it is over" found expression among our people when the last hanger-on of the big meeting had gone.

The big meeting of 1891 registered the high-water mark in the interest in racing in Independence. Early in 1892 Mr. Williams began preparations for a two weeks' meet. Large stakes were offered, a good entry list secured, and the program as arranged was fully carried out. The racing was of a high order, several records were broken, but the attendance was far below that of the year before. It was at this meeting that Nancy Hanks lowered the world's trotting record to 2:05¼.

In the summer of 1892 Mr. Williams also built a new and spacious amphitheater at Rush Park which cost \$15,000 and had a seating capacity of at least ten thousand people.

The work of construction was pushed forward rapidly, notwithstanding many adverse circumstances. Labor was very hard to get and materials still harder. During the time of building persistent rains interfered seriously with the work. The hotel was three stories in height, being built of pressed brick, the first story being dark brown and the two upper stories granite. The body walls are of white brick from Minnesota.

Undaunted by lack of encouragement given his meeting the year before, in 1893, Mr. Williams again advertised a two weeks' meeting, only a part of the stakes filled and those but indifferently. The blight of hard times and diminishing values had attacked all lines of business and upon none had its withering hand been laid more heavily than upon the trotting horse industry. The meeting was carried along through the two weeks, barely enough people passing through the gate to pay the gate keepers their daily wage, but despite this every horseman was paid his winnings in full.

The history of the financial reverses of the founder of Rush Park, the builder of the Gedney Block and the street railway was of meteoric character, as was his successes, which were brilliant and spectacular.

In the spring of 1894 he was induced by an offer of a liberal bonus to remove to Galesburg, Illinois, for a period of three years, where, under the auspices of a citizens' organization he built a regular mile track over which he gave two highly successful meetings; and at the expiration of his contract he availed himself of his option for \$20,000 on the property worth about \$50,000. At first he engaged in the business of raising trotters and later went up into Canada and bought land from which he has realized a vast amount of money, being accredited as a millionaire. For the past several years he has turned his attentions from horse raising to evangelistic work and is at present devoting his whole time to that work.

When it became evident that Mr. Williams would no longer conduct meetings at Independence, the Independence Driving Club, with a capital of \$10,000 and a membership of 100 business men and public spirited citizens, was incorporated and became his successors. Ninety-nine shares of the capital stock were subscribed to and 25 per cent of their par value paid into the treasury. A board

of nine directors was elected, as follows: Z. Stout, C. A. Thompson, John Hussey, W. H. Morse, W. D. Ham, T. F. Curtis, C. E. Ransier, B. W. Tabor and A. H. Farwell. Z. Stout was elected president; A. H. Farwell, secretary, and W. W. Donnan, treasurer, and held their offices continuously as long as the organization existed. A lease of the track was secured from R. Campbell on terms highly advantageous to the club. Stakes were opened and filled beyond expectation of the most sanguine and the first meeting under the new management was held the last week in August, 1894. At this meeting the club inaugurated the practice which has since been adopted by many other associations of paying all purses from the stand as soon as the race was decided. The club gave a meeting every year from 1894 to 1899. It paid every claim against it in full on presentation and established a reputation for fair, honorable, courteous treatment to horse-men second to no association in the land. During the five years that it was in business it disbursed upwards of one hundred thousand dollars and paid out locally for labor and other essentials in conducting the meeting nearly fourteen thousand dollars. It did this at an annual cost to each stockholder of less than five dollars.

Many noted horsemen were in attendance at these meetings every year and the horse press was usually represented by noted journalists. Murray Howe, of the Horse Review; John McCartney, of the Horse World, and J. H. Gelo, of the Horseman, were in the city for the 1898 race meet. At the 1898 meet the largest crowd assembled since the palmy days of the early '90s, when Charley Williams, Rush Park and the kite-shaped track were famous all over the country. Excursions from every direction brought in enormous crowds of people and long before 12 noon, on Thursday, the big day, the grounds and streets to the race track were packed with vehicles and people.

A new departure observed that year was the free gate system, and it certainly did not depreciate the total receipts, for the amphitheater and standing room on the green more than made up the difference of the previous paid gate admissions.

In January, 1899, the Independence Club joined the newly organized Great Western Trotting Circuit, a competitor of the Grand Circuit, and comprising ten associations. C. T. Hancock of Dubuque was elected circuit president, and A. H. Farwell, secretary. The Independence Club offered \$40,000 in stakes that year. The stakes were to be closed May 17th, and as they had failed to fill, it was decided impracticable to attempt a meeting that year. With the closing of that meeting the prospects for all future big race meets at Independence were waning and truth to tell never again did the famous kite-shaped track resound to the hoof beats of the trotting and pacing kings and queens of the turf as it had in days of old, although race meets were held thereafter, but not of their one time greatness.

Such, in brief, is the history of the Independence kite track, over which nine race meetings were given, and on which was witnessed some of the most memorable contests in the history of horse racing, and the oft repeated prophecy that Rush Park would be converted into a pasture for stock came to pass.

In the spring of 1904 the threatened proposition to convert the Independence kite-shaped track into a pasture ground was the cause of much regret and alarm among the business and horsemen of Independence, who proceeded to get

busy to prevent such a sad catastrophe. A public subscription was circulated and a sufficient sum was secured to keep the track in condition for trainers for that year, as quite a number of prominent horsemen were expected to return with their strings of horses.

In August, 1904, a new racing association was organized by some of the younger business men of Independence and a three days' meet was planned for October 11th, 12th and 13th, and \$3,000 in purses was offered. C. L. King was elected secretary. Trotting, running, pacing, automobile and bicycle races were the attractions of this event.

Like Banquo's ghost, the horse interest in Independence would not down, for after a sleep of four years, which it was feared would prove the sleep of death, it was again revived. A wave of enthusiasm had struck the town with such force as to permeate the very atmosphere, and everybody boasted to make it a grand success. The largest number of running horses ever seen here were entered that year. They were owned by horsemen of St. Louis, Chicago and other places.

The meeting was a success but not of the magnitude anticipated, and their intention to join the Great Western Circuit for the next season did not materialize.

The glory of Rush Park was surely and speedily vanishing and material changes were constantly taking place which all but obliterated the marks of the one-time fastest racing track in the world. In October, 1905, the large Rush Park grandstand was converted into a barn of gigantic proportions, and is now used to shelter Mr. A. R. Campbell's fine herd of Hereford cattle and to store hay and grain in.

Mr. C. W. Williams was thirty-three years of age when he came to Iowa. He deserves credit for the beginning in life that he made. He clerked in a store at Jesup and shortly afterwards ran a milk wagon in Chicago, later coming to Iowa, where he acted as railroad operator for a time. In 1878 he engaged in the butter business in Independence and operated one of the best creameries in the county.

About 1885 Mr. Williams turned his attention to horses. His first purchases were two well bred mares from Stouts, of Dubuque; they were Lou and Gussie Wilkes. Two others were subsequently added and the four of them were shipped to Kentucky. It seems that for years previous Mr. Williams had devoted himself to the study of the pedigrees of the different trotting families and after looking over them he decided to breed from the Wilkes family, and accordingly the mares were shipped to Lexington, Kentucky, and there he succeeded in maintaining his ideas of good horse flesh. The product was Axtell, and the product of one of the mares was Allerton.

After a short time Mr. Williams took the colts to his farm and broke them. When they were two years old Mr. Williams began to give them a systematic course of training. As a result, in one of the first races Axtell trotted a mile, on a half mile track, in 2:31 $\frac{1}{4}$ , which was the fastest two-year-old on a half mile track at that time. He subsequently trotted in many national stakes and won all of them. Axtell's performance in the year 1888 was one of the most wonderful on record at that time. He broke every record and commanded a very high price, but Mr. Williams persistently refused to sell him. Allerton, in 1888, as a two-year-old, trotted a mile in 2:40 $\frac{3}{4}$ . The next year he was

started at Minneapolis against a field of seasoned horses and won his share of the races. During the Washington Park meeting at Chicago Allerton trotted nine heats and won eight of them.

On October 11, 1890, Axtell trotted a mile at Terre Haute, Indiana, in 2:12, reducing the world's stallion record. A Chicago syndicate in the evening offered Mr. Williams \$105,000 for the colt, which he accepted without hesitation. It is figured that Axtell brought in to the new owners the sum of \$40,000 before he passed into the discard.

On the morning of April 11, 1894, C. W. Williams, with his entire outfit, left on the special train from the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern. The horses, of which there were fifty-four head, were loaded into fourteen cars. A special passenger coach carried the members of Mr. Williams' family and those who were in his employ. The party was composed of the following people: C. W. Williams and family, G. W. Williams, Fred Williams and family, C. B. Gildersleeves and family, C. H. Hedding and family, James Ferris, Charles Cox and William Hughes.

Associated with Mr. Williams in the training of trotters and in the ownership of several finely bred horses was M. E. McHenry, a driver of wide experience and knowledge. Their stock farm was known as Elmhurst.

Another of the leading trainers who was attracted to Independence was Charles Terbush, who had earned an enviable reputation as a careful and successful driver and trainer. With Mr. Terbush was associated Mr. D. Munson, his son-in-law, who owned the Snow residence property now occupied by Mr. Disbrow, in the northwest part of the city, and had a valuable string of horses, fourteen in number, for training purposes, stabled in Mr. Williams' barns.

Mr. Charles Thompson was another horseman, a successful driver and trainer, who located in Independence during the race boom.

Just west of Rush Park, on the north side of the road, was located the Nursery Stock Farm, the property of George L. Weeks. This is commonly known as the Sampson George Place. Mr. Weeks and Mr. Williams owned eleven horses in partnership.

A. H. Farwell, one of the proprietors of the Buchanan County Journal, was largely interested in horse flesh and owned Oak Glenn Stock Farm, which joined the city on the southwest and Rush Park on the east. He was a well posted horseman and a good turf authority and owned some fine prospects.

The Idaho Stock Farm was situated at the north end of Idaho Avenue, which runs north from Main Street just west of the B., C. R. & N. depot, now the T. E. Taylor place. This farm was operated by S. Hale & Son, who possessed an excellent stock of trotting horses.

"Pinehurst," the home of O. A. Laurer, situated about one mile south of Independence, on the Brandon Road, was one of the fine farms established here during the boom of 1892 for the purpose of the breeding and raising of fast horses.

Mr. Laurer moved here from Jesup, bringing eighty horses with him, and bought 160 acres from the Hurd estate owned in Canada. On his farm, just outside of Jesup, he had his own half mile race track and here he developed the speed of Louis F. and Highland Lad.



## BICYCLING IN INDEPENDENCE

The kite-shaped track was noted not alone among horsemen, but was for several years a favorite one with some of the noted cyclists, who came to Independence to practice for their record-breaking operations, and most of them achieved success. Not only breaking their own, but the world's records and some records made here were unbroken for many a year. On October 12, 1895, quite a colony of bicycle celebrities had collected at Independence under the management of Tom Eck, the famous bicycle trainer.

Among some of the famous riders who found this a desirable track for record breaking were John S. Johnson, who first sprang into prominence by his achievements, and secured the world's championship on the kite track; Pat O'Connor, the well known Irish champion; Austin Crooks, an American product, and A. E. Wenig, of Buffalo, the tandem team; J. F. Greibler, of St. Cloud, Minnesota; H. A. Seavey, of Boston; H. R. Steenson, of Minneapolis; H. P. Kreamer, a Des Moines champion, and others usually managed by the veteran Tom Eck. A Miss B. A. Stringer, from Elgin, Illinois, who had an Illinois record for a mile, also visited here and practiced on the track. All these were professional riders who had won many laurels, not only in their own country, but in many European countries.

The banner year for Independence in cycle racing was 1895, there having been three sanctioned meetings, all drawing some of the best riders in the state. This was when the bicycle craze was at its height, and some of the Independence boys were real racers.

In 1895 it was estimated than over five hundred wheels were owned in Independence, and prospects for many more before the season closed. Evening parades took place. One evening about fifty of the hospital employees and attendants, on bicycles decorated with Chinese lanterns, paraded through the city, and the next week the wheelmen of the city returned the compliment. The fine road out to the hospital, through the grounds and back home by way of the boulevard, being a round trip of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles, was the popular run of bicyclists. That Independence was noted as an enthusiastic bicycle town is shown from the fact that in the *Western Cyclist*, a publication devoted to the bicycle and its interests, Independence received the most flattering notices.

The first bicycles introduced into Independence were in 1880, and they were the high wheeled affairs—a high wheel over which was adjusted the seat and the little wheel in the rear, and required much more skill to manipulate than the present style.

Quasqueton had adopted the new fangled riding machine to such an extent that they had a Bicycle Club.

Bicycling was as much in vogue in those days as autoing is now, and even more so, since it was within the reach of more people. Within the past few years this pleasurable recreation is being revived to a great extent, and the latter invented motorcycles are extremely popular, and motorcycle races have been one of the chief attractions at the county fairs for several years.

Independence has boasted several champion bicyclers. In the early days Will Littlejohn earned not a little fame and prizes as a champion rider. Emmet Allen was another rider who earned some fame and glory on the speedway, but

perhaps our most distinguished champion was Henry Necker, who, in the year 1899, had a record of unbroken victories and was conceded to be the champion bicyclist of this section of the state. He had several matches with professionals and always was the winner.

#### THE AUTOMOBILE

The automobile "has come" to stay in Buchanan County, and now instead of any blue sky schemes to attract the fancies and the shekels of the Buchanan County populace, and particularly the farmer who is so situated that he can be attracted, the automobile has all other attractions far eclipsed. The days are past when it was all for gain; now it is all for pleasure. The "get-rich-quick" schemes have faded in comparison with the "get-there-quick" idea which obsesses the present generation, and this mania for speed and pleasure has taken full possession of our once quiet and reserved populace. It has become a regular follow-the-leader game and "everybody's doing it," is excuse enough, at least for a Ford.

The first automobile that ever appeared in Independence was a steam motor car which was driven into town by a cigar man in 1901. This horseless carriage attracted no little attention and curiosity. To be sure, travelers had seen them abroad, but that is different from on our own quiet streets. Mrs. D. F. Logan is said to have owned the first one in the county. It was a little Oldsmobile runabout, worked with a handle, and did excellent service for many a year for them and is still in use. The Iowa Land Company next indulged in one, but this was not successful and refused to do its duty, so was soon supplanted by another. This proved more satisfactory, but was not much like the palatial riding palaces of today.

One of the earliest ones was owned by a Mr. Smith of Winthrop. The automobile now no longer seems to be a luxury but is fast becoming a necessity, just as many former luxuries are now necessities, and it is not such a far-fetched prediction to say that nearly every family will own an automobile, and horses will be used for circus purposes only and made household pets. There are approximately one thousand automobiles owned in Buchanan County and probably two hundred in Independence alone.

#### CRICKET CLUB

Away back in 1858 there was a Cricket Club in Independence; they met for practice every Saturday P. M. at 1 o'clock, at their grounds on the west side of the river, and held their regular weekly meetings at L. W. Hart's office every Saturday night.

O. H. P. Roszell was president and George B. Parsons, secretary.

The Independence Cricket Club played a match game with the Dyersville Club, at Independence, in July, 1858. Dyersville won the game with but one wicket down. It was a very close and exciting game. Another match game, between the married and single men proved equally exciting and interesting, but not very close, the single men defeating the married men by eleven. W

Chandler and C. F. Putney were umpires. Great interest and excitement were manifested in these games.

This club continued a few years and then died out.

#### BASEBALL

Baseball has always been more or less popular in the local eye. The first baseball club organized in Independence was on April 29, 1864, at the office of J. M. Weart, who was the leading spirit in the enterprise. Just what this organization accomplished on the diamond remains a guess. So many baseball organizations have existed in Independence that it would be utterly impossible to record all the glorious victories or the gloomy defeats which have periodically and temporarily exalted the devotees of the game with enthusiasm or submerged them in unmitigated despair.

Independence has been known to have six baseball teams at one time. The hospital had a league consisting of three teams, the Y. M. C. A. one, the high school one, and the clerks still another.

Independence talked baseball, thought it, dreamed it and literally devoured it; interest in the game has waxed and waned and now largely centers in the big league games.

Probably the best team that Independence ever boasted of was the one of which Tom Moore was captain and which won an almost unbroken series of victories.

Among those who reaped fame on the diamond and acquired initial training and experience here were George Cobb, who played in one of the big California leagues for several years; Al Wengert was made manager of the Austin, Minnesota, Baseball Association after proving himself a brilliant catcher; Rolfe Chamberlain, who played in some of the big Texas leagues and in Mexico; Tom Moore gained an enviable baseball reputation as a pitcher; Earnest Bantz was phenomenal in the field as well as at the bat; Will Jayne was signed on a National League team and would have qualified but for a bad knee, and many others would have won fame had their inclination been to follow the game.

At different times Independence had a team of some consequence.

#### OFFICER DOXSIE SHOT

The ordinary quiet of our town at midnight was suddenly broken about 15 minutes to 1 o'clock on Sunday morning, October 24, 1897, by a pistol shot which was followed by a veritable fusillade, which did not cease until some twelve or fifteen shots had been fired. The streets were soon filled with excited citizens and in front of Stout & Woods's cigar store, on East Main Street, was found the inert form of P. M. Doxsie, the official night officer, profusely bleeding from a severe wound in the leg. The particulars of the affair were as follows:

Mr. Doxsie was making his regular nightly rounds and had gone up the alley between the W. H. Littell clothing store, what is now the Tidball Department Store and the Marble Works. The street lights were turned off, it was very dark, but he was able to see two indistinct forms at the south door seeking

to obtain entrance. He called to the parties, demanding what they were doing and was answered by a revolver shot. Doxsie pulled his gun and the battle commenced. He carried a watchman's dark lantern, which made a mark for the burglars, while he had nothing to aim at but the flash from their revolvers, and the second shot struck him in the right leg below the knee, severing an artery. He fell to the ground but kept up the fight until his gun was emptied. When the miscreant's revolver was emptied, they broke and ran from their hiding place and Doxsie managed to drag himself in front of the cigar store but could go no further. Marshal Higbee was soon on the scene. The injured man was taken to his home on West Main Street, where he lingered until Tuesday afternoon and died.

Mr. Doxsie was a great favorite with the business men of Independence, who appreciated his close attention to duty and his well-known fearlessness. Through some misunderstanding or fearful negligence, the sheriff was not notified for more than three hours after the shooting and in this time the criminals were allowed to escape. The town had been undergoing a siege of criminal depredations, scarcely a week passed but chronicled several burglaries committed and there were supposed to be several gangs of thieves operating in the city. There were many vicious individuals in town who, if they were not the real criminals, were innocent simply from lack of courage.

The city afterwards employed a detective from the Pinkerton agency to ferret out the crime, but his work was so crude that nothing resulted therefrom except the arrest of two local characters, who were discharged at the preliminary hearing from the lack of evidence. The supposition of those who gave the case most thought and consideration was that the crime was committed by a person who went by the name of Iowa Fred. Iowa Fred was arrested in Independence a few weeks before the murder for some misdemeanor and was fined \$100. Having no means, he was sent to jail, but before the sentence expired a confederate of his appeared at the office of J. H. Williamson, justice of the peace, and paid the fine in order that Iowa Fred might be released. Mr. Williamson's office was up-stairs in the building in which the robbery was attempted at the time of the assault on Doxsie. He used one room, which he occupied for a sleeping room. The night just prior to the attempted robbery and assault on Doxsie he was awakened by some voices in the hall. He claimed that the voices were familiar to him but he was unable to place them until he had pondered over the matter for a week or ten days, when he became convinced that they were the voices of Iowa Fred and the confederate who paid his fine. Mr. Williamson's supposition was that Iowa Fred and his confederate were examining the building with the view of ascertaining a means of escape should they be detected in making the robbery and that was the reason for their being in the building the night he heard them talking. The detective who was sent here paid no attention to this information and the clue was never followed up. Iowa Fred was afterwards sent to the penitentiary in Anamosa for burglary in that city.

#### THE STEAMBOAT IOWA

On the 12th of April, 1898, was launched another craft whereby the people of Independence, who have always been advocates of the gay and festive life,

might enjoy themselves. This was the launching of the steamboat Iowa. This was a relic of "auld dacency," which had seen years of service on the Cedar River, but nevertheless a steamboat on the Wapsie was a luxury which, though not of palace-like completeness, was greatly enjoyed for the several seasons it was in existence. It made regular trips up the river to the "Big Tree," and nearly every time carried a load of happy picnickers. In 1897 a corporation known as the Independence Steamboat Company was organized, with Jacob Wackerbarth president, Albert Leytze treasurer, and Will Yeager as superintendent. The boat was purchased and thoroughly overhauled and for several seasons enjoyed great popularity, but one spring the high water carried it over the dam and totally demolished it.

#### COMPANY L GOES TO ST. LOUIS

In September, 1904, Maj. and Mrs. H. A. Allen and Capt. and Mrs. R. A. Campbell, in company with thirty-five men belonging to Company L, visited the St. Louis Exposition. A special car took them and at Cedar Rapids they mobilized with the companies from Charles City, Waterloo, and Vinton, being the four companies of the Fifty-third Regiment to go at this time. In October the Fifty-fourth Regiment would be represented at the fair.

The companies were allowed railroad rates, were charged but one gate admission of 50 cents, and the exposition company furnished them rations at the rate of 25 cents a meal, and quarters within the grounds were provided at no expense to the company. For all these benefactions they were to appear on dress parade every evening for less than an hour and no further drills were required during their stay. After a ten days' outing they returned home, enthusiastic over their fine time and the generous hospitality accorded them by the fair association.

Company L, which since its organization had always ranked high in the regiment in drill and at the rifle practice shoots, was more than surprised and delighted when in April, 1905, after inspection of the company at the armory on March 20th, by Maj. John R. Prime, inspector general, Maj. F. E. Lyman, assistant inspector, and Maj. J. W. Ohmstead, the official report was received that Company L had secured first honors, an average ranking of 93.2 per cent. The Governor Greys of Dubuque had ranked first almost without exception for many years and Independence felt justly proud of this first distinction of the kind ever won by an Independence company which reflected great credit on the proficiency, untiring efforts and excellent discipline of Major Allen and Captain Campbell.

#### KING'S OPERA HOUSE

King's Opera House, situated on East Main Street, at the corner of Main and North streets, was the principal place of amusement for many years, but long since was turned into a mercantile establishment. It was built by Charles King in 1876 at a cost of \$9,500.

At the time it was built it was considered one of the finest opera houses in this part of the state. It is 125 feet long, 56 feet wide, and the stage was

24x53 feet, was furnished with gas footlights and suitable drop curtains, wings and backgrounds for ordinary entertainments. The gallery at the front of the building was 22 feet deep, under it was the entrance and ticket office. The building seated about eight hundred persons.

After the building of the Gedney Opera House, King's fell into disuse for this purpose and for several years was used for various purposes. For some years the Y. M. C. A. and Company E, National Guards, occupied it as their headquarters, and after that it was occupied by the Iowa Wholesale Grocery Company and for the past two or three years by the People's Supply Company.

#### THE GEDNEY HOTEL

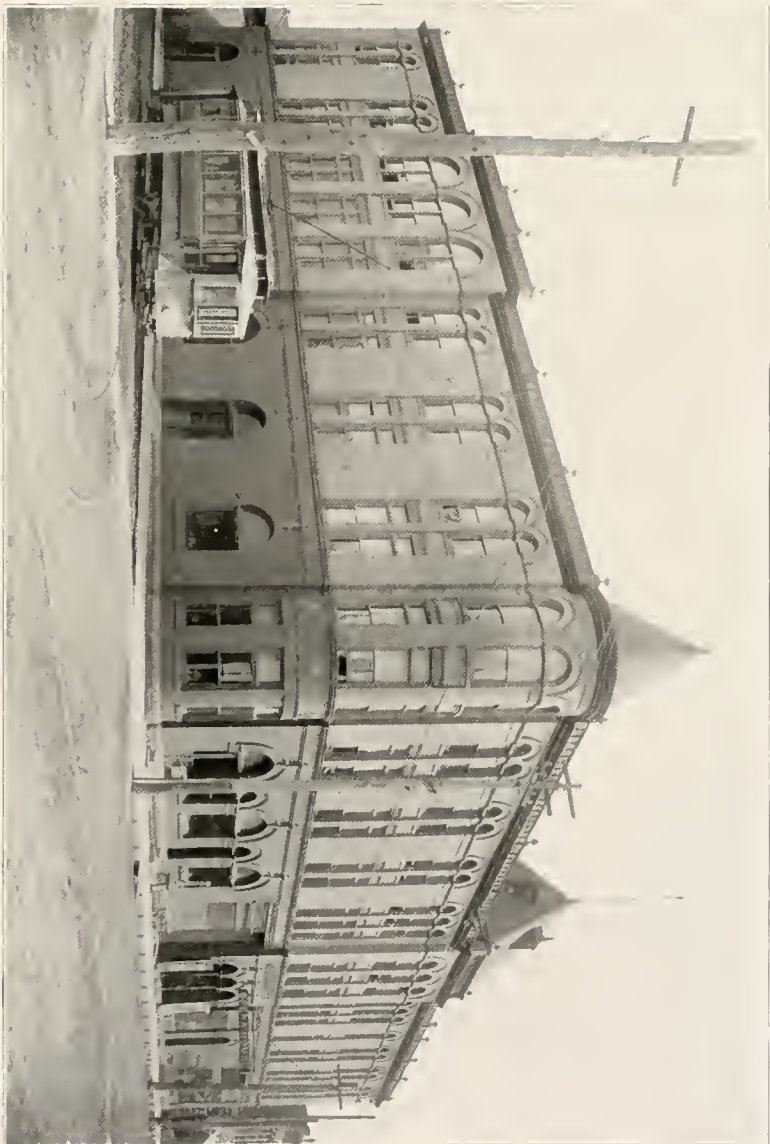
In March, 1892, Mr. C. W. Williams purchased of J. S. Woodward the property on the corner of Chatham and Mott streets, a half block north of Main Street, and then occupied by the Fifield Lumber Yard, and paying therefor the sum of \$10,000. Upon this site, the area of which is 154 by 160 feet, he proposed to erect a large and elegant hotel and opera house combined. G. W. Sunderland, a Chicago architect, was employed to draw the plans. The work on the structure was immediately begun and a double force of hands worked day and night for the purpose of having the building ready for occupancy by the time of the August races. The building when finished, exclusive of the site, cost not less than fifty thousand dollars. The hotel fronts on Chatham and Mott streets, is three stories in height and built of pressed brick. The hotel when finished was considered the most elegant, roomy and completely equipped hotel in the state, in a town of the size of Independence, and the opera house was of like character, spacious enough for any probable emergency and in every detail of excellent quality and was considered the most beautiful, if not the largest, in the state.

At the time of building, the hotel was the finest and most complete in its appointments of any to be found in any town of this size in the United States. The interior decorations were the best that money could buy and Mr. Williams spared no effort to secure the latest conveniences.

The flooring of the office was handsome tile and in the dining room was a floor of the same material, with a fine ornamental grate, this latter room being of hunting lodge style. The parlors were on the second floor immediately above the office. They were finished in mahogany, carpeted with Axminster and furnished in the most elaborate style. The main chandelier in the ladies' parlor cost \$175. Among the specifications for furniture are a number of chairs at \$18 each, a settee at \$100, four mahogany sets for the best suite of rooms and bird's-eye maple bedroom set for the bridal chamber. The rates for the bridal chamber were \$10 a day. There were 100 hair mattresses purchased at \$10 each. There were seventy-three guest rooms. The suites of rooms are carpeted with Axminster and Wilton and the other rooms with Brussels. Five of the suites have bath connections. Besides this there are three general bath rooms.

At one time all of the rooms had hot and cold water and were heated with steam.

The Gedney Hotel received its first guests on Sunday, August 21, 1892. The first name enrolled on the register was that of J. L. McCarthy, the starting



THE GIDNEY HOTEL  
Erected in 1892





judge of the races. Three cooks were brought from Chicago to take charge of the kitchen. J. W. Gardner was the first clerk, assisted by Ed H. Semple. A large number of guests were entertained at this opening. The festivities ended with a banquet in the evening.

#### THE GEDNEY OPERA HOUSE

The Gedney Opera House, located in the Gedney, was considered one of the best of its size in the country. Its seating capacity was 825. There were four boxes and two loggia, parquet, a balcony and gallery making up the sum total of floors. The height from the orchestra floor to the ceiling is sixty-six feet.

The drop curtain was one of the finest in the country, representing a landscape entitled "Apple Blossoms." The interior was finished in delicate tints, the ceiling being an especially fine piece of decorative work and the parquet, and balcony are furnished with elegant opera chairs and the gallery is fitted with benches.

On Tuesday evening, August 23, 1892, occurred the opening of Mr. Williams's new opera house. This was an occasion for the gathering of the most brilliant assemblage of the history of Independence. The boxes, parquet and balcony were decorated profusely with flowers and banners.

At 8:30 Judge Toman opened the dedicatory prologue with brief remarks to introduce Charles E. Ransier, who gave the address. Judge Toman next introduced Mr. Stephen Tabor, who recited a dedicatory ode.

After the speaking the orchestra played overtures and then the Andrews Opera Company presented "Fra Diavolo." Miss Roe was the leading lady. Ed Andrews took the comedy part and George Andrews played the heavy.

The scenery was handled under the direction of Mr. Toomey, of St. Louis.

#### OPENING OF THE ST. JAMES HOTEL

Some of the leading citizens of Independence, deeming the opening of the new St. James Hotel a fitting occasion for an evening of festivities which also should partake of the character of a welcome and benefit to the proprietors, Messrs. Pettengill & Company, called a meeting accordingly to make preparations.

The features of the occasion were a banquet given by the new proprietors, a dance at one of the public halls, music by the Manchester Band, and other amusements of a social character suited to the tastes of those who did not dance, and invitations were extended to parties from a distance and a large crowd and agreeable time proved the affair to be a great success.

#### THE FOOTLIGHTS

Mr. and Mrs. M. Gibney, with the Hoeffler Dramatic Company which often appeared in Independence, were both formerly residents of Independence. Mr. Gibney was an elocutionist and actor, came to Independence in 1881 to put on the Merchant of Venice with the aid of local talent.

Mrs. Gibney, then Miss Nellie Wilkins, was selected for the part of Portia, and the acquaintance thus formed resulted in their marriage the following year. Both were very successful in their chosen professions and created a most favorable impression when they visited here with the Jack Hoefler Company during fair week in 1904. In 1905 word was received that she had died very suddenly of apoplexy after her splendid portrayal of Camille. Mrs. Gibney had a sister who was an actress of some note. Karolyu Kenyon is another actress of note who was formerly a resident of Independence, traveled as leading lady with Clay Clement, afterwards as second lady to Grace George, and recently starred with Robert Hilliard.

#### THE CARDIFF GIANT

Among other things for which this city was noted, and one that was particularly interesting to the older inhabitants, was the Cardiff Giant which was peacefully interred in this city for over twenty years.

Not only was this a giant stone man, but it was also a giant fraud of its day and its conception was the fraud of a genius that received a liberal compensation for its cunning. Geologists and students have delved for years in the bowels of the earth in quest of the borrowed secrets of ages and their work has done much to reveal to us the history of the past and of the creatures who inhabited the earth at the time that history begins. Fully appreciating the gullibility of these searchers for antediluvian pointers and marble cutter, whose home was in Lockport, New York, came West to view a great gypsum deposit discovered at Fort Dodge. The massive pieces that could safely be handled gave the marble cutter an idea. He conceived the idea of carving a giant man from an enormous piece of gypsum and then work the susceptible geologists and the ever willing public. Accordingly, he selected a rock perhaps sixteen feet long, two feet thick, and four feet wide, loaded it onto a car and shipped it from Fort Dodge, Iowa, to his brother's farm near Lockport. After letting his brother into his schemes, together they built a shed and placed the rock in it and for days and weeks and months, under lock and key, the marble cutter carved and chiseled and worked with the will born of genius and determination.

In the course of time the huge rock was transformed into a perfect man, but a monster in size, and to all appearances he had died a peaceful and natural death and his gigantic and noble physique had been preserved by the laws of petrification. Fifteen feet beneath the surface of the earth, under the shed, he was buried and all marks of the artist's work were removed. The shed was torn down and the giant's grave seeded.

At the expiration of three years, the farmer brother came to the conclusion that he wanted a well dug on the spot where the giant reposed. After digging down the fifteen feet, the petrified man was exposed. It required some labor to clear away the dirt from the colossal heap of this ancient giant, but it was a profitable expenditure of labor. The farmer built a fence around the spot and sent to Philadelphia for his brother, opened up an exhibition charging 50 cents admission and without raising the giant from his grave, they reaped a financial harvest that went way beyond their most sanguine expectation.

Such an excitement did the exhuming of this Cardiff Giant create that P. T. Barnum, then running his great museum in New York City, went to Lockport to see him and before he returned purchased the giant for \$20,000, arranged for its removal to his New York establishment where for a long period it was kept on exhibition and viewed by the most noted scientists, statesmen, military men and scholars of the country. P. A. Older, the Independence man, took the first P. T. Barnum Circus on the road. He also took the giant but its ponderous weight proved difficult to handle, although its popularity had not decreased.

The following winter, 1872, Older had a papier-mache cast made of the giant and he was left here in Independence where for over twenty years he has not seen the light of day.

Even now this great fraud, for it was nothing less, would be a curiosity, and a great one, for the simple reason that it was in its day the gigantic fraud of all frauds and a great many people would like to see the humbug that P. T. Barnum claimed was one of his most successful humbugs.



## CHAPTER XXXII

### REMINISCENCES

#### THE PIONEER LIFE—INTERESTING NOTES

In a book published and written by A. C. Fulton in 1898, called "A Life's Voyage," and depicting in a peculiar and unique style his life as a sailor on sea and land, jotted down during a seventy-years' voyage, is a somewhat different version of the early settlers.

Mr. Fulton was a man of extensive travel and wide experience, having engaged in numerous occupations and enterprises both on sea and land, having been a sailor on board numerous trading vessels and a rover on the high seas. Later he became very prominent in the pioneer life of Davenport and vicinity and in the early political life of the state, being elected as state senator from Scott County in the early '50s. After traveling pretty much all over the Western Hemisphere by water, he concluded to drop anchor and try the prairie schooners a while. He came up the river from New Orleans with an immense stock of merchandise which he landed at Davenport and opened up a general store.

He had been on the frontier just two weeks when a petty little adventurer, a genuine specimen of the frontier stripe, called on Mr. Fulton. He said his name was Lambert, that he was born and reared in the big potash timber region of Northern New York, that he had purchased from William Bennett a half interest in a valuable water-power claim on the falls of the Wapsipinicon River, in Buchanan County, and they desired to get an advance in goods and money on the prospective water and land (when the land came into market) or they would sell half interest to someone to aid them. Mr. Bennett had no money but had a bunch of cattle that would bring money at the end of the grass season. Lambert had a little money and had been to Dubuque to get aid but failed. He thought the property possessed great value. Bennett had named the coming city Quasqueton. On his word, without writings, or security, Mr. Fulton furnished Bennett and Lambert \$240 in building material, hardware, and other goods, also ordered from St. Louis bolting cloths and machinery for the prospective mill. Two hundred and forty dollars was considered a large sum in those days. At that time the word of a sailor or frontiersman was good for all he possessed, at least, and Mr. Lambert gave his word that Fulton should be half owner in the Buchanan County Water Power and Land Company, or get his money back if he would furnish the sum necessary to develop the water power and to make the land purchase.

On July 28, 1842, he visited Buchanan County and found the population to number nine persons, six of whom lived in Bennett's log house. On August 5th, of the same year, the census taken by Mr. Bennett gave the population as fifteen persons, an astonishing increase. Some forty acres had been broken and cultivated, some sod corn, oats, potatoes, and garden vegetables planted and looked remarkably well for a raw sward crop. In October, 1842, Bennett and Fulton visited the present site of Independence. They already possessed the splendid location at Quasqueton, but they desired all they could get and would have taken legal possession of these upper falls but upon reconnoitering the surroundings they discovered on the west side of the Indian line of 1837, and even then the smoke of the Indian campfires of the good and peaceable Sac and Fox could be seen curling above the tree tops from their camps on the west bank of the river. At Quasqueton they erected a warehouse and a blacksmith shop and a dam made of logs, brush, stone and earth, and were the proud possessors of a splendid water power and unsurpassed site for a vast, unbounded city in the center of an expansive district, a healthy location unsurpassed for its fertility, and they had every hope of being the founders of the metropolis of the Great West.

Mr. Fulton claims that the first death of a white person in Buchanan County was when Oscar Day, a young workman on the mill, was shot by a man called Big Bill. Day had taken up a claim of 160 acres of splendid prairie land within a mile of Quasqueton and had erected a one-room log house on his land.

Mr. Day went for a few days' visit with his fiancee, she who was to be the mistress of his domicile when completed, living near Dubuque. When he returned a man from the Michigan woods, called Big Bill, a noted claim jumper, with his man "Friday," had taken possession of his house, and had put a prairie grass roof on his unfinished stable for their horses. When Mr. Day approached his house, they ordered him to make tracks or suffer the consequences, and he saw that they had knocked out some of the chunking from between the logs to make loopholes to fire through and had virtually made a fort of his house, in which two men could easily shoot down a dozen assailants. Mr. Day was not one who would tamely submit to such a wrong. His employers advised no hasty action and risk of life and promised to help him gain possession of his property. They had planned to build a breast-works on their home-made log wagon and run it close up to Big Bill's fort the first dark night and take the fort by strategy, but to this Oscar protested, thinking such maneuvers would be a lasting disgrace. He believed that this was a question of honor that could only be settled by the etiquette of the gun, so time and again he reconnoitered near his home; at length he saw Big Bill at a distance from his stolen quarters, endeavoring to get a shot at a large elk (well known as the lone elk of Buchanan County). This big elk was the last of his race, and had been pursued and shot at by dozens of both whites and Indians for months. Day waited and watched for Big Bill's return from the fruitless chase, and hailed him with the question if he would surrender the house immediately. His defiant reply was, "No, never! I have that claim for sale." Both instantly raised their rifles and fired. Poor Day fell shot through the heart. The whole proceeding was witnessed by a citizen of Quasqueton who was on his way to

his claim with his wagon and had been watching Big Bill endeavoring to shoot the elk. The corpse was brought into Quasqueton and placed in the company's warehouse. There was not a vacant room, or a coffin, nor boards to make a coffin, within Buchanan County. Some proposed to wrap him in a blanket. Mr. Lambert suggested they utilize two old flour barrels, one over the head and one over the feet, but the body measured too long for the barrels. Mr. Bennett, as usual, came to the rescue. They had an old fifteen-foot disabled Indian bark canoe, which they cut six feet six inches off the bow, and six feet nine inches off the stern. The longer part they sprung over the smaller, like the lid of a pasteboard box. They took a dry goods box that Fulton's goods were shipped in and made the coffin-head. Some rawhide straps bound around the old canoe formed a casket fit for an emperor and undoubtedly poor Oscar rested as easily as though on a downy bed, and "slowly and sadly they laid him down by the mellow light of the harvest moon, in the virgin soil of Buchanan County." "They carved not a line, and raised not a stone, but left him alone in his glory."

The next morning the only small boy of the settlement, a lad of 8 years and 7 months, volunteered to go alone and see if the desperado was still in possession of the claim. He soon returned to say that both had deserted. A trail gave positive evidence that they had gone southeast toward the Mississippi River early the previous evening. Within one month word was received from Camanche, Iowa, that Big Bill had died at that village from a bullet wound received that day when he and Oscar Day had settled their dispute. Retribution was speedy and final. The day previous to his death Bill told his doctor and a Mr. Bigelow, said to be a counterfeiter, at whose house he died, that he had received his wound at Quasqueton; said that he had shot his assailant dead and that he felt sorry that he had done it. When the news of the cruel death of her lover reached the farmer's daughter, she became insane, kept to her room and observed continual silence until the day previous to her death, when she told her parents that on the morrow morning at 9 o'clock she should leave home to go to Quasqueton to see her Oscar. Her words were thought to be just the ravings of a demented mind, but when the hour struck 9 her mother entered her room to witness her last gasp of life. This tragedy and romance were mingled in the life of the early settlement, as is also the case in the tale of the Wild Girl. But to introduce this mysterious character we must revert to the day when the lone elk again visited the settlement. It was noon-day and all hands were at dinner when the ever-reliable small boy (the same little fellow who within a year afterwards departed this life) rushed wildly forward, exclaiming, "The Indians are coming to fight us; give me a gun, quick, quick!" Within five minutes every man and one woman had a rifle in their hands, but when the Indians came in sight it was evident that they were not hostile. There were eight of them on horseback and they had come to ask permission to kill the big elk on the "white man's territory."

Permission was granted and they started in pursuit, spreading out to the right and left in couples, and the boy raced after to see the sport. After hours he returned, and reported that the chase was in vain as usual. Some one asked him if the Indians bunched up or scattered in a hunt and he replied, "Neither—they stretch out straight like my mother's grape vine clothes line," and he also re-

ported the news that two strangers in a covered wagon drawn by two fine black horses and two tied on behind, had stopped to see the Indians chasing "his" elk. One of them was a woman or a girl, and was driving the team, and he knew she was a "white Injun." She asked the boy the name of the tribe to which the hunters belonged, said all Indians were her friends, and that she could shoot the elk, and they conversed for a minute or two and she whipped up the team and started off.

During the following forenoon the Indian hunters returned to cross the ford to their camp. They had three wild turkeys, about one dozen prairie chickens and a prairie wolf, but no elk, and almost all of them were inclined to believe Mr. Lambert's suggestion that it was only a phantom of its departed race and kind, was true. On the following day, which was Sunday, a finely built and good looking stranger, full six feet in height, with dark piercing eyes and a few gray hairs scattered through his raven locks, and a fluent talker, appeared with his companion at the Quasqueton boarding house where the most of the inhabitants were assembled for their regular exchange of stories and gossip. Both were on splendid black horses, and the young girl, as she proved to be, made a wonderful impression on the inhabitants, the male portion at least. She was young, perhaps eighteen or nineteen years, and so graceful, and attractive in both form and speech, although she only deigned to answer questions and apparently took no notice of anyone present or her surroundings. Upon being questioned from whence he came and their future intentions, he immediately answered that he was the far famed Canadian patriot Johnson of the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence River and claimed to have long been a terror to the British Dominion. That he had alternately (through necessity) lived on and owned many of those islands, that his family had maintained an interrupted residence on one of the islands, and that now his daughter and himself were the only living members of his family and becoming tired of his island life of constant adventure and excitement, he had concluded to leave Canada and journey to the Iowa frontier, that he had already secured a home, purchasing from Mr. Kessler a two room log house with a small kitchen, within two miles of Quasqueton, also twenty head of cattle and some tools and wished to purchase a plow and a few more cattle. He said his daughter had never been named but in infancy was called by her mother and friends "Wildy," because she was so wild in action, and when she grew older was known as the "Wild Girl of the Island" to the Canadians and Indians, and as the "Queen of the Thousand Isles" by the American hunters and trappers.

Immediately upon their departure much comment, both complimentary and adverse, arose. The mill improvements brought other settlers to that locality, but the Johnsons continued as upper crust and the leaders of society, more on account of the Wild Girl's intellectuality than Johnson's reported acts of bravery, the accounts of which soon spread to other settlements. Persons claiming to be connoisseurs of art, declared that the Wild Girl would make a perfect model for a Titian. She not only possessed beauty, but wit and amiability. Her wardrobe was not the envy of the other pioneer women, for it was scant and common, but its wearer gave it grace and beauty. She had been from childhood her own dressmaker, milliner and noceasin-maker. She and one of her neighbor women made an excursion to Davenport to purchase goods and



while there she made the acquaintance of a kindred spirit, a Miss B., whom she invited home with her for a few days' visit and hunt. The Wild Girl was a splendid shot and was as familiar with the habits and instincts of the wild animals as an Indian, and her greatest pleasure was to take her gun and go into the lonely dense timber along the Wapsie and shoot wild turkeys, or to tramp over the trackless, expansive prairies and shoot down the swiftly soaring prairie chickens and partridges. She had boasted that she would shoot the lone elk, and to the surprise of everyone, she captured the long-sought prize and received the applause of all the men and the jealousy of all the women in the county.

As was previously stated, the Johnsons were decidedly in the limelight and the most conspicuous characters in the county. Soon, however, Mr. Bennett and two of his men missed some of their best cattle from the range. They were sold in Dubuque and a full description of the person who drove and sold them was obtained. A second lot soon followed to the same market, and the evil-doer was identified by the purchaser and proved to be none other than the "patriot Johnson." To prosecute required time and money and the frontiersmen knew a shorter and quicker cut to justice, so the losers of the cattle concluded to waive courts and the "mill of the gods," and Messrs. Bennett, Warren and Lewis caught Johnson unarmed, and out of the range of the Wild Girl's rifle, and proceeded to give him an unmerciful beating and ordered him to leave the country. The majority of the people took Johnson's part and severely condemned Bennett and his followers. Johnson was confined to his bed after the encounter and his close and constant friend, a Mr. Green, who had purchased one-eighth of the mill property from Mr. Lambert, nursed and tended him while the girl rode her horse to Dubuque, when the thermometer registered below zero, to procure a warrant and officers to arrest Mr. Bennett and his two mill hands. Buchanan County at that time was attached to Dubuque County for judicial purposes. She had read of and knew the proceedings of the courts of ancient times, the courts of Mohammed's Caliph and the Tribunals of the Venetian Doges, and the Justinian Code of Rome, but she had never seen a real court in session or even a courthouse, yet she entered the Dubuque court and in an impressive manner recited the great injustice and injury which had been inflicted on her father, and by her personality, eloquence and dignity captivated the whole court, from judge to janitor, and created quite a sensation. A second Portia pleading at the bar of justice. Her father's fame as the hero of the Thousand Isles had already reached the little mining town and the court ordered a cessation of proceedings, and hastened to issue a bench warrant for the arrest of the offenders, and to dispatch the sheriff and two deputies to get the offenders of the law. It was reported that the dignified judge left his elevated station and escorted the girl to the door and placed her under the sheriff's protection. The cohort of loungers mounted the tables and benches, the bald headed jurors and the phalanx of attorneys stood with amazed countenance and open mouths at the unprecedented proceedings. When the Wild Girl was seen starting to mount her Canadian charger, on the Dubuque trail, it required no prophet to foretell her destination and mission. Mr. Lambert was speedily dispatched on one of Mr. Bennett's fleetest steeds and scouted the judicial precincts of Dubuque, and in due season, by using whip and spur,

he reached Quasqueton before the posse did, to rehearse the scenes of the Du-buque court and warn Bennett and his confederates that the Wild Girl was returning, re-enforced by the court that she had captured.

The notice was short, night approaching and a storm brewing, but the three, who had ever breathed freedom's pure air, resolved never to do otherwise so long as life and limb could prevent.

Mr. Bennett remarked that all was peace and prosperity until that daughter of Eve and son of Satan entered the frontier.

He struck out to the east for Michigan, and Warren and Lewis fled to the timber region of Turkey River, where several woodsmen's huts were erected. The threatening storm broke with terrific fury. Bennett found shelter but Warren and Lewis sank exhausted in the snow on the bleak prairie. They were accidentally discovered the next morning, Warren cold and stiff in death, and Lewis was still alive, protected by the drifting snow, but it was necessary to amputate one of his arms. The unfortunate Warren was laid beside the lamented Oscar Day.

The spring of 1843 soon followed and a portion of the public lands of Buchanan County was to be placed on the market to be sold at auction at Marion, Linn County. A gloomy prospect presented itself to the Quasqueton mill owners. Mr. Lambert had exhausted his last dollar, Mr. Bennett was a fugitive from justice and Mr. Fulton's means were at low ebb. Gossip had it that the hero Johnson and the Jay Gould of the frontier (a man whom we can not name, although he afterwards became prominent), had determined to beat the mill owners out of their mill, warehouse, dwellings and land. They had resolved to reap where they had sown. When Mr. Fulton reached Marion for the land sales, he found the reported combination against them a reality. There he found Mr. Johnson, Thomas Green, and their banker, a politician by profession, accompanied by the Wild Girl, the most dangerous of the four. Mr. Fulton found the politician a veritable Chesterfield in manner, suave and agreeable, therefore doubly to be feared. Wherever and whenever the girl made her appearance she was the observed of all observers, and she rose majestic to every occasion. Mr. Fulton was alone and destitute, a single friend in the whole large assembly and had been plainly made to understand that he and his partners should never possess the Quasqueton mill rights or an acre of the land. At that time the claimants of lands at all the Government land sales in Iowa appointed a sort of Court of Appeals, composed of about seven persons, to arbitrate and adjust disputes and conflicting claims, to see that no land speculators should deprive settlers of their homes, or run the prices over the Government's minimum limit of \$1.25 per acre. Fulton visited the claim committee, but they refused to arbitrate or intervene, stating that the case had already been brought before them by a very intelligent young lady and that they had pledged themselves not to entertain any grievance connected with the Wapsie water-power land and that Lawyer Green of Marion had told members of the committee that he, Fulton, had been a pirate on the high seas and was then a pirate on the land.

The Wild Girl possessed untiring energy and sleepless vigilance and had scored a triumph with the court. When the land sales commenced and the Quasqueton land was reached, Fulton, who had already deposited his \$1.25

per acre with the receiver of land money, bid that amount on the mill and town-site property, but Johnson ran it up to \$10, at which price he secured it, but his banker objected to the price and the sale was pronounced against the rules of Government land sales. This act of bad faith deprived Johnson of the right to bid on lands, but he boasted that he had Mr. Green and others do the bidding for him, and claimed that the mill company owed him \$60 that he would secure through the purchase. This meant the loss of all their labor, money and future prospects and the homes of four families, so Mr. Fulton proposed to Green that he would deed Green one-eighth of the mill property and the town lot he claimed to have purchased from Mr. Lambert and would also pay Johnson the \$60 that he claimed the company owed him for pine lumber he had procured for them in Dubuque, and to make his word good, deposited it with the postmaster, to be given to Johnson if Fulton became the purchaser, if not, to be returned to Fulton. Fulton also signed a strong and ironclad bond drawn up by lawyer George Green of Marion, brother of the banker Green, in regard to the deeding of the lot. At this juncture of proceedings Mr. Lambert arrived on the scene and said that the company was but \$16 in debt to Johnson. That gentleman, according to Mr. Bennett, had been paid several times with the cattle he helped himself to, and that by the deed Mr. Green had purposely given the wrong number of the lot and thereby secured the warehouse. This success in obtaining a deposit with the postmaster, and the bond, greatly elated Johnson and Green; and Johnson became very boastful and arrogant over what he intended to do at the coming day's sale and rather threatened that it might be dangerous to refuse his bid, and made an insulting remark about Receiver McKnight which infuriated him.

Mr. McKnight instructed the auctioneer that as soon as Fulton made a bid on his improvements, to knock it down to him as quick as lightning, and his instructions were obeyed and in ten minutes from the time he entered the sale room Fulton departed with the land certificate of purchase.

He went immediately to his hotel and ordered his horses to depart, when Green and his attorney stepped up and demanded a deed under the conditions of the bond. Fulton calmly informed them that Mr. Edwin R. Fulton, his younger brother, had purchased the land and that his own deed would be worthless, and further called their attention to the warehouse game they endeavored to work. Upon this Green made a show of drawing his pistol, but Fulton knew he had the weapon and was prepared for him and persuaded him not to be so hasty, etc. Johnson then demanded the \$60 turned over to him, but Fulton also was under the necessity of informing him that the officer whom Johnson had abused the day before had performed his duty and returned the money to the owner upon the evidence that he was not the purchaser. Johnson threatened vengeance but it was only silly blustering.

The brother, who was greatly astonished to find that he was a land owner in Iowa Territory, at A. C. Fulton's request deeded Mr. Green the one-eighth of the water-power property, but did not deed him our warehouse and lot that he sought to obtain. This episode, land sharking and connivery, is but a sample of "pioneer" graft and proves it is not of modern invention.

This Quasqueton company had fondly hoped to secure a large tract, not less than a section, of land at the sale, but Fulton's light purse and Bennett's flight

reduced their purchasing ability and they were content to save their buildings and water power at Quasqueton. (At an early period Mr. Lambert desired to call the coming town Trenton.) Mr. Bennett, according to his friends, was a man of remarkable ingenuity and resourcefulness, and could create astonishing wonders from Nature's scattered and apparently worthless stores, and his absence greatly retarded the progress of Quasqueton projects and was most deplorable to the mill owners. Mr. A. C. Fulton, shortly after the auction sale, visited the Dominion of Canada, and was reconnoitering near the St. Lawrence River so he determined to learn about Johnson and the "Wild Girl" of the Thousand Isles. He found that the Iowa Johnson was the degenerate son of a worthy Welch Canadian and was a criminal and an imposter and that the Canadian authorities would welcome him back with open arms and a rope halter. Johnson, the true patriot, was a man of noble soul, respected even by his enemies for his manly worth, bravery and untiring energy in Canada's cause of independence, that he had no daughter and no family on the islands at all, that he had but used the islands as safe quarters of retreat and defense; Fulton took special pains to learn all he could about this mysterious pair and visited the Wild Girl's former home.

The Wild Girl proved to be the daughter of a French family by the name of DeVoe—her father was a French soldier and her mother a lady descended from a French family of prominence, and possessed of rare culture and accomplishments. He had followed the fortunes of Napoleon through the wars and after his defeat at Waterloo, had come to Canada with his wife, who was a kinswoman of Empress Josephine. Madame DeVoe brought with her from France a large and rare library (the chief wealth which she inherited from her literary father, Louis Beauharnais) and which was afterward sold to a French library for a large sum, the library sending a commissioner over to purchase it, and it was from this source that the Wild Girl obtained her extensive and rare literary knowledge. She was born, raised and educated on the island, and never saw a schoolhouse or a church on the mainland. An Indian squaw was her doctor and nurse and no gorgeous cradle rocked her lullaby; the wild animals were her playmates and her talented mother and father were her teachers. She had never had a white playmate. She spoke only in the language and phraseology of books, and even the literate were dumbfounded by her flow of words. After both parents' death, the girl had married the adventurer Johnson at the little chapel which her mother had made out of a deserted hut, her mother being a devout Catholic, and upon her insistence was married by an Indian chief. Johnson had in all probability married her for her money, obtained from the sale of the library (although she was so attractive) and had induced her to play the daughter part on the frontier. Strange as it may appear, when Mr. Fulton returned to Quasqueton, after his long journey, he was astonished to find that popular opinion had completely changed and the entire small community adhered to Johnson and considered Bennett a desperado and thought Johnson was a much maligned and abused hero. They had no sympathy to waste on the industrious and enterprising Bennett, who had been robbed of his cattle and driven from his family and home into exile, nor for poor Warren's untimely death, and also the loss of Mr. Lewis' arm. When word reached Quasqueton that Johnson was an imposter and the Wild Girl was not a daughter both were

highly indignant. While Fulton was sleeping in the warehouse, hotel accommodations being "nil"—in those days the rough home-made warehouses were good quarters compared to some he had previously enjoyed. His mattress was made by ripping open several old grain sacks and sewing them together into a bed tick which was filled with prairie hay, and his pillow was a roll of the grain sacks, but this was real luxury in comparison with his one-time-can-brake couch. (This making the best of uncomfortable circumstances was what made the pioneers such a remarkable people, thrifty, hardy and courageous.) With a companion, soon after his return, his slumber was disturbed by a loud knock and upon going to the door he beheld a youth with a roll of something brown in his hand which he said the Wild Girl had ordered him to give to Mr. Fulton to carry to Davenport the first time he went scouting in that direction. The boy reported that the Johnsons had pulled stakes and were leaving the country; that they had sold all their stock in Dubuque, and all their other traps, with their ranch, to a stranger that had just arrived and that a man by the name of Green was in charge. The most convenient postoffice to Quasqueton in those days was some thirty miles east and so Fulton agreed to deliver the peculiar missive.

The moment the boy had mounted his horse to leave, Fulton's companion became exceedingly anxious about his two fine horses which were stabled at his brother's near the Johnson place. He felt confident that Johnson would never leave without them, as he had tried just the week before to trade cattle for them. So he went immediately and got Mr. Lambert's two horses, Mr. Fulton having proposed to accompany him, although he anticipated that Johnson would not molest his companion's property, but leave as quietly and speedily as possible, and such was the case, for when they cautiously came near his place they were just bidding good-bye to the new occupant and two others, one of them the cowboy who had visited the warehouse. Johnson seized the lines and applied the whip to the spirited stolen Toronto horses and they sprang forward when they were within ten feet of Fulton's and his companion's ambush. The Wild Girl with a look of indignation and quivering lips convulsively seized the lines and brought the spirited horses back upon their haunches, and with the agility of a deer she sprang from the wagon and with pallid cheeks and trembling limbs knelt down on the cold frosty earth and raising her beautiful eyes and her right hand to Heaven she invoked not a divine blessing but a curse and besought the Great Jehovah to forever dwarf and blight Fulton's Quasqueton mill and all his enterprises there, and that screaming night fiends, drenched in dripping gore might shatter the nerves of Bennett and his crew, "that thorns be their pillows, torment their sleep, and no mercy given to wake and weep, with startled conscience, steeped in wild dismay, convulsive curses on the source of day."

Fulton, who had faced every calamity and death on both sea and land, who had lashed himself to the stays of a tempest tossed ship in mid ocean while leviathan waves swept her decks from stem to stern, and heaven's thunderbolts carried away the bowsprit and dismantled the yard arms; had faced the iron-hail of artillery and met a bayonet charge without a shudder, was completely unnerved by the maledictions of the Wild Girl and acknowledged himself a superstitious coward. He straightway resolved to sell his Quasqueton property

at the first opportunity. After the Wild Girl's appeal to the Supreme Being to wreak vengeance on Bennett and his crew, Fulton and his companion slowly journeyed back through the cold moonlight, not to sleep and pleasant dreams, but to broken sleep and night-mares, and the next day Fulton took the lonely prairie trail to Davenport. Here he delivered the dingy roll of paper to Miss B., whom the Wild Girl addressed as "Good Sis." It was as the cowboy had said, a letter written on brown wrapping paper, and was fastened with a few stitches of black thread. Mr. Fulton begged permission to copy the mysterious letter in his diary. The epistle evidenced a peculiar style of literature, such as one might expect from a demented person; it was full of the vagaries of an unbalanced mind—yet this girl might be perfectly normal and only warped by her very extraordinary education and environments.

Her resourcefulness denoted a quick and active brain; she had no ink but took the juice from some dark berries, which, with proper evaporation, made a good substitute. She made her pens from the quills of a wild goose which she shot, and with the wrapping paper her writing accessories were complete.

Mr. Lambert produced a purchaser for the mills and lands. The applicant was a Mr. William W. Hadding, to whom he sold it for a mere bagatelle under power of attorney from Edwin R. Fulton, in whose name it was purchased. The deed of the sale is recorded in book 11, page 291, on file in Independence, although at that time the City of Independence was an untrodden wilderness. Soon after the Johnson's decamped (vamoosed as the cowboy called their departure) word was received that they had purchased a woodman's hut and stable in the timber on the Skunk River and settled there. But they had not been in their new quarters many days when a man by the name of Peck, the terror of Skunk River country, was out hunting deer (his chief occupation when not in some illegal practice) and saw smoke rising from the chimney of the recently vacant cabin. He straightway went on an investigating tour and when his eyes fell upon the queenly face and form of the Wild Girl, the Cleopatra of the Iowa frontier, his heart beat with astonishment and he became a vanquished desperado instantaneously. He made too frequent wanderings to the home in the timber, his deer in the chase always brought up near that spot, and although the Wild Girl met his effrontery with cold disdain, his bravado led him to come back. Johnson, rifle in hand, ordered him to immediately depart; threatened him vengeance if he ever prowled around his domicile again. Peck was infuriated and shouted back in defiance, "You contemptible Camick, you have signed your death warrant, go and dig your grave."

The county records bear witness that within a week a coroner's jury reported that from the testimony taken—that it was a wild and dismal night, the wolves howled in the timber close by, Johnson sat on a rude stool before a log fire, smoking a corn-cob pipe and the Wild Girl was seated at a rickety table reading Byron by the dim light of tallowdip, and several of her favorite books beside her. She had just closed her book to kneel and say her evening prayers when a bright flash of light, a sharp report of a rifle and Johnson fell prostrate on the floor, and the Wild Girl was left friendless and alone in the wilderness with only a corpse for companionship. What became of her, history does not state, and is only a matter of hope and conjecture. A hope that she found shelter and friends to protect her and that her after life might be less checkered than her

youth had been, and a conjecture that possibly she became the companion of an outlaw band.

Thus ends the most romantic and tragic story of Buchanan County's pioneer life.

One of the early pioneers, Mrs. Asa Clark, used to tell of the primitive way in which they lived and the substitutes and make shifts employed by them to obtain the commonest necessities and comforts of a home.

She first came here from Dubuque in a stage, and the vehicle carrying their furniture had not arrived and did not for some time. They had no table, but the Yankee genius of her husband soon surmounted this difficulty and a flour barrel covered with boards supplied the lack. Among the simple eatables which constituted their bill of fare was mince pie made of venison and wild crab apples, and which proved a delectable dish. An apple brought with them from the East graced a shelf on the wall, remaining there for weeks to be looked at, but not for a moment to be eaten, for the shadow or image of such a thing as an apple could then only be indulged in as a reminder of a luxury. Still she maintained that those days, with all their privations, were among the happiest of their lives.

This item appeared in the February 1, 1865, papers: "Friends, countrymen, lovers," we who went to bed "Main-ites" wake up to find ourselves living without removal on Independence Street, and vice versa on the other side of town. Independence Street, so designated on the map of Independence, as published by Thornton & Ross, in 1858, ran from the bridge across the river to the west line of said city and soon was changed to Main Street, and what was formerly Main Street on the west side of the river was changed to Independence Street. First Street was changed to North Street, Second Street was changed to Court Street, Third Street was changed to Elizabeth and Fourth Street changed to Anna Street. Truth is, the honorable council has made a wonderful improvement in the street nomenclature of this growing metropolis.

In the same issue it told of a new city ordinance that had just been passed forbidding swine from running at large in the streets. The editor had just seen a portly, porkly thousand pounder perambulating down Main Street. "The ladies could thereafter promenade along without having to wallow among pigs and our garden path next summer can 'go to grass' and weeds without molestation from the 'poreine tribe.'"

Numerous ordinances were made and among them the following: Any theatrical performance or even a musical entertainment or concert for pay or compensation was charged a license of not less than five and not more than ten dollars for each and every performance. Anyone exhibiting statuary, paintings, wax figures or similar articles had to pay a like amount for each exhibition.

The Panorama of the Bible, a beautiful oil painting, had been on exhibition at the courthouse for several days with a paid admission. Crowds of the citizens flocked to see it every afternoon and evening. It was customary for these fine paintings to be carried throughout the country for exhibition—we saw notices of several being shown here.

Half of the proceeds of this exhibition was donated to the Soldiers' Aid Society.

A curious phenomenon happened on a farm about three miles northeast of Independence, in February, 1865. A mass of frozen ground, 20 feet long, 8 feet

wide and some 2 feet thick, with a clump of small willows in the center of it and the roots perfectly intact, was in some unaccountable manner lifted bodily from its bed and moved about four feet away from the nearest point of the place it formerly occupied. This strange thing occurred in a level, unbroken prairie; the mass was without fracture, its sides being straight and smooth as though cut out with a spade. People went to see this curiosity but no one was able to give a solution of its cause.

A most singular circumstance occurred in Homer Township, near the old Colonel Boon residence, in June, 1873. At a spot in the middle of the main road, traversed by heavily loaded teams for the previous fifteen years, apparently as hard and dry as any road in mid-summer, one of the wheels of an empty wagon passing suddenly sank to the hub. An investigation of the cause of the accident revealed a circular cavity three or four feet in diameter with almost perpendicular sides, and as was ascertained by measurement, about ten feet deep and filled with water as clear as from a spring.

A loaded wagon had passed over it a few minutes before, and, as was supposed, cracked the crust. No outlet or inlet could be discovered. After a time the water disappeared and the bottom sank still further down, but the road, being one of much travel, the farmers proceeded to fill the cavity and some of the pioneers of that vicinity claim that whole trees disappeared like magic in the engulfing regions below.

Similar peculiar subterranean disturbances have occurred just west of the Rock Island track and near where the hospital stub branches off from the main line. One circular cavity about five feet in diameter fell just after a loaded freight car had gone over the track, and in the fall of 1913 another in the same vicinity fell. Both of these cavities fell to a depth of about ten feet and their perpendicular sides were as smooth and round as though carefully cut with a shovel, but no water or evidences of any were apparent. The general theory is that that strip of ground, which is rather low, covers a subterranean dry lake or one that has been drained dry and many predict similar occurrences in that strip of ground.

A sketch of Rufus B. Clarke, the original nimrod and fisherman, might be appropriate in this chapter; also a sketch of a hunting and fishing excursion in which he participated.

He was the first settler in Independence and previously had been one of the first at Quasqueton, and was the only man of the settlement who devoted himself exclusively to fishing and hunting and trapping, and although he made considerable money, he could only support his family, which consisted of a wife and three children in moderate comfort. He was a born pioneer and felt like a "fish out of water" when civilization began to surround him, and so would move on to evade it. He came naturally by this love of frontier life, having been the first white child born in what is now the City of Cleveland, Ohio. He roamed in many states; from the mines of Wisconsin to this county, then northwest into the wilds of Minnesota, thence across the continent to the west of the Sierra Nevadas and at last lies sleeping in Whitby's Island in far off Puget Sound. While here his reputation as a pioneer sportsman became known far and near.



Amos Blood, Jr., first came from Wisconsin to Iowa in the fall of 1844, just after he had reached his majority, with five other young men about his age, named as follows: A. Brown, Charles Abbott, Leander Keyes, afterwards sheriff of Buchanan County; William Hammond and Titus Burgess, who later became a settler of Quasqueton. They had heard of the fame of Rufus Clarke, the great pioneer hunter of Quasqueton, and came there to secure his services as guide and captain of a hunting, trapping and fishing excursion. He consented to accompany them and they set out the latter part of October, 1844, the guide on horseback and the rest of the party with a wagon and team, carrying all their necessary camp supplies. They proceeded as far as Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo County, hunting, trapping and fishing along the streams and lakes, capturing, in about four weeks, nineteen beavers, sixteen otters, thirty or forty raccoons, and plenty of other game for the sustenance of the party. On their return they struck the Cedar River in Bremer County, near where Waverly now is. Here the party divided, Clarke returning home with his horse. Blood and Keyes followed with the wagon, and the rest of the party decided to come down the river in canoes as far as Quasqueton, but very soon the weather suddenly turned cold, the ice became so thick in the river that the four voyagers were compelled to abandon their canoes and take to land. Game disappeared and (besides suffering from the intense cold) they suffered the pangs of hunger. For two entire days their food consisted of a few fresh-water clams, which they succeeded in digging from the edge of the stream. Luckily, no snow fell and with vigorous exercise by day and fires at night they managed to keep from freezing, but their noses, fingers and ears were badly frost bitten. Finally, after five days' heroic struggle, they reached Sturgis' Rapids, now Cedar Falls, in a half famished condition. As good fortune or providence would have it, Mr. Sturgis had just slaughtered a fine beef and had left the quarters hanging in a tree near the house. The feelings of the starving hunters upon seeing this plentiful supply of meat can well be imagined. They whooped and yelled like Indians and gathered about that enviable prize. The proprietor, having assured himself from a window that they were not savages, came to the door, whereupon they begged him to cook them some and he proceeded to do so as quickly as possible. The next day they set out for Quasqueton, anxious to relieve the painful suspense of their friends, but when they got as far as Pilot Grove they were met by two men, with a team, sent out by Clarke as a relief expedition. It certainly was a joyful reunion when they all got together again, safe and sound, at Quasqueton.

In a few days they started on their return trip to Wisconsin, and all reached their homes without further mishap or adventure. Thus ended an exciting and memorable excursion, which was undertaken mainly for the love of adventure, but proved to be quite remunerative from a financial point of view, for the furs they got were disposed of at Fort Atkinson for about three hundred and fifty dollars.

In after years, Asa Blood, Jr., his brother Amos, T. J. Marinus and Alexander Hathaway constituted an old hunter's guild, the members of which for more than twenty years, every autumn, without fail, took a long fishing and hunting trip together, either North or West. Their last excursion of this sort was made in 1877, a little while before Mr. Blood moved to Colorado. They

went North and spent several weeks roaming on the prairies, through the forests and about the lakes and streams of Minnesota. While gone they killed thirty-two deer and caught 3,300 pounds of fish, all of which they sent by express from St. Paul to Independence. It was stored in the old Asa Clark's grocery and was disposed of at wholesale and retail, realizing for the hunters about four hundred dollars.

A reminiscence which, although it cannot be substantiated, is nevertheless a good story. The usual big celebration was advertised for July 4, 1858, at Independence, and besides the customary attractions, a free dinner was advertised to be served, and this fact alone insured an immense crowd.

The celebration was held in the block where the Presbyterian church now stands. Tables were built all around the block, and in the center was a large platform for the speakers. The oration of the day was to be given by a merchant of the town. He wrote his speech on the back of a roll of wallpaper. The introduction of the speech was written by the merchant and he had everyone who came into the store add a few sentences, until the roll was completely filled. On the day of the celebration it was put on a windlass which had been built on the platform, and as one man turned the windlass the merchant read the "composite Fourth of July Euphony."

After the oration it was announced that dinner would be served immediately, and when the crowd was all seated at the table a drayload of potatoes was drawn up to the table and potatoes and salt were shoveled off the wagon onto the table in heaps. The guests waited patiently for more food to arrive, but they soon became aware that this was the extent of the free dinner. Of course, this was rather a disappointment to the expectant crowd and rather a dampener on future Fourth of July celebrations.

There is something so peculiarly familiar about the last sentence that in spite of wishing otherwise our mind reverts to a similar Fourth of July celebration just fifty years afterwards, which was advertised to occur; but, differing from the former, did not. And this, instead of a free dinner, was a head-on collision which failed to collide. Extensive advertising and excursions on all the railroads had brought thousands of people into town to see this hair-raising spectacle. The event was to take place on the fair grounds. There was such a crowd in town that it was evident that room would be at a premium in the amphitheater, so by 12 o'clock crowds could be seen wending their way to the grounds to get a good view, although the awful awe inspiring spectacle was not to occur until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and although there was a ball game and other minor attractions, the expectant crowd showed no interest in anything but in those two dilapidated old scrap engines, and could scarcely endure the interval. The track was laid on the infield and the rails pinned to the rolling ground with about as much care as carpet tacks are placed. The engines "Taft" and "Bryan" were on these tracks, the center of an admiring group of spectators and apparently everything but a little steam was ready for the great crash.

After several hours' wait the two engineers began to tinker around the big "Moguls," oiling, feeling their pulse, watering and preparing them for their final run. When the engineers entered the cabs and began firing up and real steam and smoke was issuing from the monsters, the enthusiasm of the crowd broke into an uproarious applause. But still the engines sat and smoked and

occasionally whistled in pure enjoyment of the joke that no one could enjoy but those inanimate shafts. The crowd sat breathless and intense on the edges of their seats. This tension endured for a seemingly interminable long afternoon, but nothing seemed to mar the serenity of the engines or the engineers. But after a time the latter left the scene of action, and the feeling of the crowd began to grow rancorous. Dark came on apace; crowds left the grounds; those living in town went home to feed and to recuperate, and then returned. All the time the mob spirit was accumulating weight, which finally determined to vent its spite on the someone responsible for the fizzle, and they selected the secretary, C. L. King, whom they would have probably hung or burned "to a steak" had not the vigilance committee, in the person of Dr. J. H. McGready, borne him away with fleet horses. When the frenzy of the mob began to display itself in earnest, the master of the exchequer, Hon. C. E. Purdy, securely loaded into a gunny sack the "admission shekels" and toted them off to his strong box.

The real responsibility did not, however, rest upon the association. The secretary made a contract with a man by the name of Connelly, of Marshalltown, who proved to be a crook, for the exhibition and paid him \$1,500. The engines and track were brought to Independence and everything was made ready for the "fatal run," but just before it was to be "pulled off" another man from Marshalltown appeared on the scene and claimed to be the owner of the engines and demanded \$3,500 or a damage suit in case the exhibition took place without the payment being made.

Connelly took a tie ticket east and has never been seen in these parts since. King's pedal extremities chilled and he started for town, but the mob intercepted his retreat at the I. C. depot, where the doctor made the rescue. The unruly mob threatened to wreck the engines themselves, and the whole town included, but were persuaded to depart in peace. To right this injury, free tickets to the next county fair were distributed to all those who had indulged in them on the glorious Fourth, but Independence received such a "black eye" that it has taken all these years to retrieve, in a small degree, her former well-earned caption: "When Independence does things, she does them well."

And never since that day has she attempted more than family dinner parties and picnics to celebrate her independence.

#### EARLY MIGRATIONS

Many of the early settlers were of migratory will-o'-the-wisp disposition, always restless and unsatisfied. Every new discovery of gold attracted some of Buchanan County's population. In the early days never a day passed but great numbers of emigrants' wagons passed through Independence bound for the gold fields of the West, some California, others for Oregon, Montana, Idaho and Colorado. And this but added to the "wander lust" germ, already inherent in many of the pioneers. It not only attracted many who had settled here, but detracted the prospective settlers. Especially was this noticeable after the California gold craze in 1849. Prior to that there had been a great influx of people into Iowa, but at that time and for some years later the state population was practically at a standstill and in many counties it deteriorated. Buchanan was too far north to receive many of the returning emigrants, but some of those

who had previously located here came back. Mr. Brockway came all the way from California on ponies—it took him seventy-four days to make the trip. The California fever had just subsided when an Oregon boom came on and several families left Quasqueton for that destination. One day eleven covered wagons in one company, loaded with household goods and families, passed through Independence; they were drawn by oxen and a large herd of cattle and sheep were driven behind. Another time a train of fifty-eight yoke of oxen went through on their way from Madison, Wisconsin, to the western part of the state and from there were to be used for hauling out mining machinery. Then discovery of gold at Pike's Peak probably affected our population the most. S. V. Thompson and D. S. Davis got up a company which started from Quasqueton in May or June, 1865. About fifty joined this company, sold their farms and business interests and took all their stock and personal effects with them. With their covered wagons and horses, cattle and sheep following in the rear, it was an interesting spectacle. The company reached its destination in safety and many of them remained, and although they made no wonderful gold discoveries they prospered and are still residents of that locality.

#### HOTELS IN THE EARLY DAYS AND SOME STILL STANDING

The Empire House, on West Main Street, near Division Street, is one of the oldest buildings in the city. It was built in 1873. The hotel has rooms for eighteen guests, and is built of brick.

The Plunket Rooming House, on East Main Street, at the corner of Main and Court streets, is the oldest hotel standing, being built about 1856. It has twenty furnished rooms and possessed a fine stone barn to accommodate the hack drivers. This old barn stood until 1913, when part of it fell down and the remaining part was removed in the summer of 1914. The past three years the hotel has been used strictly as a rooming house.

The Central House, now known as the Fisher, and many years as the Turner House, was built in 1876. It has thirty-five rooms. It was owned and operated by Mr. A. Hageman for many years.

The Chatham House, on North Chatham Street, near the Illinois Central Depot, was established in 1865 by S. Naylor, and for many years was known as the Naylor House. It had from time to time been enlarged until it had twenty-six rooms. For many years it had been occupied by several families as a home. In 1914 this property was sold to P. J. and J. F. Sheehan, who, on account of the building being in such a dilapidated state, decided to tear it down and contemplate building houses thereon.

The Globe Hotel, now called the Hotel Thill, on East Main Street, on the North Side, between Court and Elizabeth streets, is an old building and was rebuilt in 1879. It contains rooms for thirty guests. Mr. P. McCorstin owned and operated it for many years.

The Burlington House is a wooden structure on West Main Street, near the Rock Island Depot. It was built soon after the completion of that road and is still in use as a hotel.

## CLIPPINGS FROM THE EARLY PAPERS

May 17, 1855

## BRIDGE ACROSS THE WAPSIPINICON

It has long been apparent that a bridge across this river at this place was much needed. We are gratified to state that Mr. Samuel Sherwood is now engaged in getting out timber for the bridge, and will erect it with all dispatch. It will be a great accommodation to the citizens who reside east and west of the river as they pass to and from the mills situated on the west side. The erecting of this bridge is owing to the individual effort among the public of Mr. Sherwood, to whom they are much indebted.

May 17, 1855

To Emigrants.—The undersigned proposed to present every other building lot to any person who will immediately erect thereon a house at the value of \$500. This is a rare opportunity presented to emigrants who wish to settle in Independence, to secure a permanent home.

JOHN W. MALONE.

May 21, 1857

## TRULY GOOD

Independence is becoming quite a law abiding town. Hardly a day passes but some man is "hauled up" to answer to some charge or other. The prevailing mania appears to be to punish offenders against the liquor law.

June 10, 1858

## GROWING

We can count nine buildings which have been erected on Main Street within the last two months, all to be occupied as business houses.

July 4, 1858

## SPEAKING OF A RIVAL TOWN

Quasqueton, that consummation of old fogyism, went dead against the railroad tax—only six votes being polled in favor of it. Who cast those votes, we do not know, but we have no doubt they are known and avoided in that "lively" town as sharpers, and that their children and children's children fifty years hence, will be pointed out and spurned as descendants of men who were chimerical and foolhardy enough to want a railroad.

April 2, 1857

## POSTOFFICE CHANGE

We are sorry to say that Doctor Brewer has been removed from the postoffice in this place. The Doctor has held the office from its first establishment—when we had but one mail a week, and the office consisted of five or six pigeon holes up

to the present time, when we venture to say, a neater and better regulated post-office does not exist west of the Mississippi than the one which has grown up under the hand of Doctor Brewer. Lorenzo Moore, Esq., has been appointed the Doctor's successor.

April 30, 1857

PROHIBITION

Pursuant to a call to the citizens of Independence, to come out on Saturday evening to the brick schoolhouse, east side of river, and discuss the merits and demerits of prohibition, prior to the vote to be taken in May, the meeting occurred at the time and place specified.

Colonel Brooks was called to the chair and W. G. Donnan chosen secretary. Without long debate, and with remarkable unanimity, the meeting passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, first, That we cheerfully support the prohibitory law on the 24th of May next.

Resolved, second, That a minute of this meeting be published in the Civilian. P. A. Brooks, president; W. G. Donnan, secretary.

March 25, 1858

THE PRAIRIE FIRES

Quite a novel sight to most of the world may be seen on any clear evening from town—prairie fire in every direction—often so intense that immense banks of fire and smoke surge up to the very zenith, and the town is engulfed in the smudge.

May 6, 1858

SIDEWALKS WANTED

We think it a disgrace that our beautiful town, numbering some sixteen hundred inhabitants, cannot boast a single plank walk. In stormy weather we are covered with mud, in pleasant, with dust—one about as bad as the other. As we see no chance of ever being incorporated, and thus getting some public improvements in that way, we suggest that there be organized a "dime society," the proceeds of which shall be expended in building sidewalks. What say you, ladies and gentlemen?

January 20, 1859

JOBGING TRADE

It may appear curious to some of our neighboring towns, but it is nevertheless true, that Independence is doing quite a business at wholesaling to many of the merchants residing in Butler, Bremer, Hardin, Franklin, Wright and Kossuth counties, who pass by Cedar Falls and Waterloo and other towns further west. Scarcely a week passes but we see loads of goods packed on wagons to be taken farther inland by persons who have purchased them of our merchants, for the purpose of again retailing them.

January 20, 1859

'T WAS EVER THUS

Notwithstanding the apparent prosperity which is to follow to Independence in consequence of the extended trade which it enjoys, there is one thing, disguise it as we may, which, if the error is not rectified, must prove a serious drawback—we mean the want of manufactures, and the apparent indifference with which our citizens appear to view their establishment. The selling dry goods cannot alone build up a large inland town, there must be manufactures also. The town should in a great degree, consume what the country around produces—and it should also be able to produce what the country consumes. Although we may say it with reluctance, it is nevertheless true that several of our neighboring towns are distancing us in manufacturing—not because their facilities are better, but because they are opening their eyes in this branch of business. And we of Independence must do the same thing, or we may awake to the reality sometime that ours is not what nature intended it to be—a first class town.

February 3, 1859

WANTING THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

In another place will be found a proposition from the Board of Trustees of the Iowa State Agricultural College and Model Farm. This institution is, as yet, not located, and proposals will be received until the 9th of next May from persons or communities—the one which offers most liberally, will get the college. This is an object which should demand the attention of the people of this county, who feel any interest in building it up into one of the most flourishing in the state. The location of such an institution is worth striving for; and although we may not succeed in getting it, we most assuredly shall not if we do not try. We hope then, that property holders throughout the county will send in their propositions as soon as practicable, and make them as liberal as possible.

September 20, 1860

THE FIRST BRASS BAND

Last Saturday night we had the pleasure of listening to the playing of the brass band, and were agreeably surprised at the progress they are making. C. F. Herrick, the leader, tells us that they propose giving concerts and dances this winter, the proceeds to be applied toward purchasing new instruments.

December 27, 1860

“EDGEY” AND “HARRY”

Mr. Edgecomb and H. A. King, late of Kalamazoo, Mich., have formed a co-partnership in the livery business. They have a lot of new cutters and sleighs, and the sleigh-riding community can always procure of them fast horse-flesh and “appurtenances thereto belonging,” in comparison.

## LUMBER, LATH AND PICKETS!!

We, the undersigned, have now in successful operation, four separate saws, producing the above-named articles at a rapid rate. We have spared neither labor nor expense to so arrange our machinery that the above-named articles shall be produced in a condition justly meriting the appellation of

## FIRST QUALITY

We have already received and filled numerous orders for lumber and are prepared to fill more. All orders under five thousand filled within ten days after acceptance.

## ANY QUANTITY OF LATH

Can be obtained—from twenty-five thousand upwards—immediately. No extra charge for sawing lath to order.

## RIPPING OF EVERY KIND

of lumber promptly and satisfactorily performed. Drive up, you who camp 'neath canvas and bark, with "mother earth" for your floor, perforated with gopher holes! Drive up, you who bump your heads against the rafters night after night; you who already have your hands and forked continuations filled with slivers, having lived so long in immediate proximity with the rude studs and siding! Drive up, you whose garden seeds germinate and are rooted in twenty-four hours, through the agency of those animals which act out human nature, in spite of shot guns and the hog law!!! Drive up to the Fairbank Steam Saw Mill and your wants shall be supplied by your ob't serv'ts.

PHELPS & HASTINGS.

## VILLAGE LOTS FOR SALE

The subscriber offers between two and three hundred

## VALUABLE VILLAGE LOTS

for sale. To those who wish to purchase a lot for the purpose of building and residing upon it, the subscriber will sell on terms that

## CANNOT FAIL TO BE SATISFACTORY

Indeed he offers his lots, and has as

## GOOD AS ANY IN THE MARKET

on the most reasonable terms—as cheap as the cheapest.

W. H. FARGO.

## TREATY FOR PEACE

## BARTLE &amp; WRIGHT

Would beg the farmers and others to cease hostilities on their timber for fencing, and call on us and get Osage Orange Plants of two years' growth, which will make a good fence in



## THREE TO FIVE YEARS

We are well aware that there are some who feel hostile, and will object by saying that they will freeze out in winter. We only ask those to call and examine our plants, which have stood in the

FIELD ALL WINTER!

And we have not lost any. We propose to sell the plants by the thousand, or to contract for fencing—any way to satisfy the farmer to let his timber stand and get a better fence. Remember that all those who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity must call on or before the 20th of May next.

BARTLE & WRIGHT.

There is an abundance of timber, and no mill privileges for at least fifty miles above us, thus giving us the benefit

OF ALL THE UP-RIVER TRADE.

We are also directly on the railroad route from Dubuque west; and if that road should run up Beaver Creek, as now proposed, it must necessarily strike at, or near this place, and as we have the

VERY BEST ROCK BANKS!

and a good ingress and egress, we especially call the attention of the railroad company to this point. I think that no person who will give us a call, will fail to credit us with the finest site for a town on Iowa River.

HENRY ALDEN, Proprietor.

## DISSOLUTION

The copartnership heretofore existing under the name and firm of Hart & Jamison is this day dissolved by mutual consent.

Mr. Hart can be found in Scott's Building, second story, and Mr. Jamison at the old stand.

L. W. HART,  
JAS. JAMISON.

## NOTICE

There will be one box of goods sold at Morse's Hotel for charges, marked, "W. D. Grover," at the expiration of the usual time for advertising.

D. C. TRACY,  
Agent Western Stage Co.

## PERFUMERY! PERFUMERY!

A full assortment of the various kinds of Harrison's Perfumery, Inks and Extracts, constantly on hand and for sale by

THOS. W. CLOSE

At his Grocery, in Independence.

## POSTOFFICE NOTICE

Hereafter, on Sundays, the postoffice will be open for the delivery of letters and other mail matter, only, from 9 o'clock till 10 o'clock A. M., and from 2 o'clock till 3 o'clock P. M. Matter for mailing may be deposited in the box on the door, when the office is closed.

E. BREWER, P. M.

## WITHDRAWAL OF LANDS IN IOWA

By the kindness of the Hon. James Harlan, we are enabled to inform our readers that in consequence of the passage of the late railroad grant all the Government lands in this state are withdrawn from market except the following: Office at Decorah, all the lands north of the line between townships 92 and 93. Office of Sioux City, all the lands north of the line between townships 91 and 92. This notice, by the commissioner, Thomas A. Hendricks, was issued May 21, 1856.

September 15, 1859

The steam engine crossed Pine Creek for the first time Tuesday morning and is still promised that the track and train will be here by December 1st.

December 15, 1859

## FIRST LOAD OF FREIGHT

Mr. G. R. West, of the firm of West & Hopkins, who has resided among us for a few weeks past, has the honor, credit, and satisfaction of having loaded and despatched the first freight car that left our village on the D. & P. R. R. It consisted of four tons of pork and 300 bushels of wheat.

September 24, 1861

## LOCATION OF THE FAIR

The show of cattle and horses of the Buchanan County Agricultural Society, will be on the ground west of the Empire House. That of domestic manufacturers will be in the rooms of the Empire House.

March 18, 1861

## SARCASTIC

Cracked—the town bell.—Guardian.

August 20, 1861

## THE BELL

Doctor Warne informs us that the bell and the firm it was bought of has gone to — (it won't do to put in that word, will it, Doe?). This will give the ladies a fine chance to get up another dinner next fourth.

March 18, 1862

MOURNING

The town flag, since Friday afternoon, has been suspended across Main Street, draped in mourning in memory of those who fell in the recent battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, who went in the Ninth Regiment from this village and vicinity.



## CHAPTER XXXIII

### PROMISCUOUS FACTS

#### NOTES OF INTEREST—UNUSUAL INCIDENTS

The first boarding house in Buchanan County was kept by Mr. Styles. It contained three rooms and a small kitchen, and was constructed out of logs and of rather superior workmanship, having split sides of the logs that formed its floors, hewn and smoothed with the then indispensable broad ax. No other abode in the county possessed such artistic and splendid furnishing. Some of the seats used were formed by sawing off three to five inches of the end of a log, and boring three or four holes in it. Three and sometimes four legs were fitted in these and this made a substantial, if not a very comfortable, bench to sit on.

In 1858 both the democratic and republican district conventions were held at Independence on account of its central location and excellent hotel accommodations, which shows how progressive our town was in the early days.

After the Union victory in the county in 1863, a great jollification was held in Independence. The enthusiasm and hilarity knew no bounds, the Unionists cheered, whooped and yelled, got out the band and cannon and got lots of good music out of both. Lager (as usual) flowed freely, but not to excess, as the paper intimates. In one of the saloons it was proposed that that crowd should adjourn to the residence of Doctor Warne, where the Soldiers' Aid Society was in session, serenade them and take up a collection for their benefit. This was no sooner proposed than acted upon and the spontaneous generosity resulted in a collection of \$25.10.

After three cheers for the aid society, the soldiers, the band, the Union victory in the township, the enthusiastic crowd adjourned to the courthouse.

A contest over the election of justice of the peace was instituted in Independence in 1863 or '64. Mr. Chandler had defeated Mr. Welch by one vote, and the grounds for contest was that several votes were cast for "Chandler" without designating which Chandler. Straining at gnats, and especially since Mr. Chandler was the only republican elected in the entire township.

Agitation to have the town incorporated was begun on account of contagious diseases in 1864. A petition was circulated and signed by a great majority of the property owners and voters. The next step was to advertise, then it was brought before Judge Barton. There being no opposition, an order of court was granted to hold a special election, when it was determined by a vote of all the citizens whether or no.

A special election was held on the 10th of May, 1864, to determine whether the county would borrow the sum of \$5,000 to repair the loss which the county had suffered by the robbery and whether a tax of 2½ mills on the dollar should be levied that year for the payment of the proposed loan.

This was to meet the current expenses and outstanding indebtedness of the county. This proposition was defeated by a large majority, although it seemed to be the only plausible solution of this financial calamity, and money was all the time becoming more scarce and a high per cent was charged.

Some of the farmers in the county had been swindled by receiving for their produce what was called stump-tail currency of Illinois and Wisconsin in 1865.

Independence ladies furnished two rooms in the orphans' home at Cedar Falls, in 1865.

Senator Hart introduced a bill in the senate to legalize the incorporation of the City of Independence in January, 1866.

On the abstracts of title recorded in the Buchanan County recorder's office in the early days will often be found the name Morris K. Jessup, for whom the Town of Jesup was named. Jessup was one of the incorporators of the Dubuque & Sioux City line, now the Illinois Central. The spelling of the name was abbreviated to Jesup.

The city calaboose was finished and ready for occupancy November 26, 1869. The Bulletin suggested that the place be christened with the name of the first occupant and there was great conjecture whether it would be Smith or Jones. The great inducement was that this would win for the name-sake fame and immortality.

The first occupant happened to be Smith Robinson, so doubtless this was the name instead of something more euphonious.

In 1869 fire ordinances on Main Street extended from Center Street to Court Street and on that from Main to Green streets.

Governor Merrill visited Independence and the public schools in 1869.

Thompson & Everts got up a new map of Buchanan County in 1870.

Board and lodging was \$4 per week in 1870.

The first public school organ was purchased in November, 1870, with money contributed by generous citizens. Over one hundred dollars above expenses were received.

A big soldiers' reunion was held in Des Moines in 1870. One hundred passes were issued to Buchanan County soldiers. General Sherman and Secretary Belknap were present. The attendance was 60,000.

Grant Ensign was another patent right man in 1870.

The census of Independence in 1870 was 2,926, an increase of 209 in one year.

The first postal cards were issued in the year 1873.

A strange fact told by the early hunters and corroborated by the Indians is respecting the actions of the elk and deer, and noticed in the locality of the Wapsipinicon River. The river formed the dividing line between their territories; the elk claimed possession of the east side of the river and the deer the west side, and neither was allowed to trespass on the other's domain, and only did so at the risk of being attacked and killed by its enemies.

In 1870 the farmers had conceived a new industry whereby to get a little more of the "filthy lucre." It was the trapping of prairie chickens, which at that time were commanding liberal prices in the East. As high as \$4.90 per dozen had been paid by the shippers in Indiana. One farmer brought in one week's trapping which he sold for \$120 in greenbacks. This would partially, at least, compensate for the low price of farm products. Parties engaged in the business were working strenuously before the closed season after the 1st of January.

As late as 1880 L. S. Ford, of Littleton, found a wolves' den in which were eight half-grown whelps. He succeeded in scalping them and securing a handsome bounty.

An exhibition of real Indians was given at the opera house on March 22, 1880. The program was made up principally of dances, such as aborigines indulge in, and the audience complained of the lack of variety of the entertainment, which was only in part compensated for by the novelty of the exhibition.

Probably this was the last appearance of original tribes of Indians in vaudeville in Independence.

#### SCHOOLS

The question of foreign languages being retained in the public schools was made the issue of a lively campaign at the school election in March, 1880. Public debates and paper conffabs were indulged in for over a year. C. R. Millington was utterly opposed to the introduction of languages and Colonel Lake just as loyally supported those branches.

One of the numerous arguments was that the public school system had become a matter of grave concern with the best educators of the country on account of the extravagance that had been introduced and the consequent frightful cost entailed upon the people and its utter collapse from these causes was by some anticipated at an early day. The only way to avert that result was by judicious pruning of the altogether too numerous courses then constituting the public school curriculum in order to reduce the school tax to such proportion that it would neither drive wealthy tax payers out of the community nor into perjury.

Another argument displaying an equal amount of sense was that there are approximately 5,000 facts that a pupil must learn before completing his knowledge of English; and Latin, not being his mother tongue, would furnish about 40,000 facts more which would impose a physical and mental impossibility upon the pupil. This agitation touching a vital spot with the voters resulted in a majority voting to exclude the foreign languages.

County Superintendent Parker and Professor Ely of the Independence public school held a series of public debates at the opera house, Mr. Parker supporting the negative and Mr. Ely the affirmative. The whole community was greatly stirred up over the proposition, and in view of the present extensive system of education which is now included in the high school curriculum, their opposing arguments seem short sighted and trivial.

This item in April, 1880, depicts a peculiar state of affairs. "Several of the enterprising citizens have planted shade trees, largely elms, along the sidewalks

before their residences, an example worthy of being extensively imitated." Among the premises thus improved were those of several citizens, and very commendatory remarks for the same were expressed. Now the town has so many trees that many are being cut down, and during the past summer (1914) tree doctors and "dentists" have been industriously employed trimming, thinning out and filling cavities of the Independence "forest reserve." The yards are filled with trees and every side of every block now has a row of trees adorning it and on many of the streets the trees on either side form a canopy of green overhead; in fact, Independence is noted for its beautiful shade trees. The trees and the beautiful Wapsie, with its excellent boating and fishing, win the admiration of all strangers and are the attractive features that induce so many visitors to seek Independence for vacation pleasures.

In the 1880 census the female population of Independence exceeded the male by the astonishing number of 212, and by that census Independence in five years had lost about two hundred inhabitants, probably men, which would account for the disparity in numbers.

The first second-hand store was established in Independence in November, 1880.

In 1891 a board sidewalk was built by public subscription from the city out to Rush Park, nearly half a mile long. In those days thousands of eager people walked that board highway to witness the fastest racing this country had ever seen. It served the suburbanites well for thirteen years and was then torn up and replaced by a new walk.

In the year 1897 it was a remarkable fact that an unusual number of venomous snakes were killed in the county. Why the reptiles should put in an appearance after almost entirely disappearing for a number of years was unaccountable. Rattlesnakes and copperheads had been in evidence in almost every neighborhood and there were reports that several had been found in the houses. A large copperhead, two feet long and well developed in girth, was killed on Mr. H. E. Palmer's lawn on North Walnut Street, Independence. Several snakes had been discovered coiled up in hammocks and were found crawling in second-story windows from the branches of trees adjacent to the building. This unusual snake story elicited wide newspaper comment, but the editors stood prepared with witnesses to verify their statements.

The gramophone was first introduced in Independence by C. F. Herrick in 1897. This was the occasion of several public concerts to hear the machine that talks and sings.

The Roentgen Ray was first introduced in this vicinity at the insane hospital in January, 1897, and numerous tests were made. Several people in Independence were photographed for the purpose of locating bullets which had remained in their bodies, sometimes for years. The institution has used this apparatus to practical purpose ever since.

In February, 1897, the Northeastern Iowa editors met at Independence, among them some very noted gentlemen. John Brigham, then editor of the Midland Monthly, now state librarian, was the most noted and gave a fine lecture on twentieth century journalism.

In 1899 the tramp nuisance had become of such alarming magnitude that a rock pile was inaugurated for the employment of such persons as are con-



victed of vagrancy and other misdemeanors and hard labor at the rock pile with a ball and chain attachment has proved an antidote.

#### WILD MAN OF THE LITTLE WAPSIE

In August, 1892, a considerable excitement had been stirred up in the vicinity of Triumph School District, Fairbank Township, by some strange being that lurked in the woods around the Little Wapsie. Several people had seen a strange man in various places around that vicinity who eluded people and acted very strangely. An old log cabin near that place contained unmistakable signs of occupancy. Numerous hunts were inaugurated but always proved futile. Little children claimed that the man wore no clothes and appeared like a veritable jibbermoisee, or wild man of the jungles. A bright light was seen at the old cabin and three or four of the neighborhood boys went to investigate and on arriving at the place saw a man sitting on the ground calmly looking into the fire. Perceiving his visitors he immediately fled.

The sequel of all this was somebody's nightmare or somebody's ingenious imagination, possibly a newspaper reporter shy of locals had conceived the sensation, a real, live wild man would create. But this much was true that someone faked the part, and the old log house was burned, probably to cover all clues.

#### A FIND

Much interest was created when workmen in the employ of the Wapsipinicon Mill & Power Company, who were excavating on the east side of the river for the purpose of thoroughly cementing the wall running out from the mill dam, unearthed two huge skulls and several other human bones and a loaded revolver. The ghostly finds were discovered several feet below the surface where they had lain for many years.

At first many supposed that a murder mystery of the old days had been unearthed. Many were the theories advanced. One of the skulls was in a good state of preservation, while the other had its top missing. To add to the mysterious feature of the finds is the fact that the revolver which is a 32-caliber was loaded to the muzzle, each chamber being fitted with a cartridge, although one of the cartridges was said to have been discharged.

An especially interesting suggestion regarding these skulls was that made by A. Hathaway, one of the oldest pioneers of the county, who is of the opinion that the bones are those of two Indians, Jack Keestooker and Wamanukuka, who lived along the banks of the Wapsipinicon and Cedar rivers in the early days, with many other peaceable red men. These Indians made their living by hunting and fishing along the banks of the two streams and trading with the whites who settled here in the early day and who were interred near the river as far back as in the late '40s. Jack Keestooker was an Indian of mammoth size and the unusually large arm bone found is supposed to be a part of his anatomy. He was not especially good morally according to Mr. Hathaway in that he once confiscated a two-year-old colt

and a shot gun which the Hathaways loaned him. He took the property and hiked away to the banks of the Father of Waters, but his chief becoming acquainted with the conditions under which he obtained possession of the colt and gun compelled him to return them to the original owners. Mr. Hathaway tells that there are many Indians buried hereabouts along the banks of the rivers. He was able to converse with the red men in their own language to a certain extent but there were some of the early settlers who could talk "Indian" almost as well as the red men themselves. The revolver which was covered with mud was in a very good state of preservation. The barrel appears to be of a manufacture which was not in vogue as long as sixty years ago, so that if the human bones are those of the Indians, the revolver has no connection whatever with the Indians.

#### BLUE SKY IN BUCHANAN

Is it a historical fact and is it worth mentioning that Buchanan County folks and Independence people particularly, have been quite as ready to adopt "get-rich-quick" schemes as are the general run of people, although we are accredited with being a very conservative and cautious class of individuals. All the way back from the present to the time Buchanan was discovered, thousands of dollars have been spent for iridescent bubbles.

In the early days it was patent rights, machinery fakes, lotteries, fraud land titles, bogus deeds, counterfeit money, and a hundred other schemes whereby to part the gullible ones from their hard-earned substance, and never a scheme so improbable or frothy but had its followers.

Late years "get-rich-quick" schemes in coffee, oil, water rights, mine, onyx, gas, Brolaski, factories and what not, have tempted and have ensnared many of our most sensible and worthy citizens, and have like a veritable leech sucked thousands of dollars of our substance into the maelstrom of chance.

#### PATENTS

In 1904 O. M. Pond invented a patent rocker, converting a baby cab into a rocker, thereby giving it the rocking movement of the old-fashioned cradle. It was easily attached and could be adjusted to fit any baby cab.

#### PREHISTORIC EVIDENCES

Another positive proof of the mound builders having made Buchanan County their home was revealed when Messrs. W. J. Hovey and F. M. Hedger, former residents of Quasqueton, in one of their numerous excavations unearthed a human skeleton and a stone hatchet found near the skeleton, from a mound in the south part of the county. The skeleton immediately crumbled to dust upon being exposed to the air. These two gentlemen had found numerous other evidences of the mound builders but none of so positive a nature. There are mounds within a few miles of Littleton and some in Homer Township, which have never been excavated, but for the sake of historical atmosphere we shall claim as the sepulchre of deceased mound builders.

# APPENDIX

## HISTORY OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK, OF INDEPENDENCE, IOWA

The National Bank Act was approved on June 3, 1864, providing for the establishment of national banks and it is a matter of no small pride to the citizens of Iowa that National Bank No. 1 was organized in this state, evidencing as it does the spirit of patriotism and loyalty to the Government as well as business sagacity on the part of its citizens and business men.

The citizens of Buchanan County may also take pride in the fact that steps were first taken to organize the First National Bank of Independence, Iowa, in the fall of the year 1864, and the corporate existence of the bank dates from October 27, 1864, less than five months after the passage of the National Bank Act, the number given the bank being 1581; however, the bank did not begin to do business until more than a year thereafter.

On November 23, 1865, at a meeting of the board of directors, it was resolved that the bank open for business on the 27th day of November, following. At the time of the opening of the bank the following named gentlemen were directors: Richard Campbell, John H. Campbell, Ephraim Leach, P. C. Wilcox, Perry Munson, Albert Clarke, James Jamison.

Richard Campbell was chosen first president of the bank, which position Mr. Campbell held continuously until the time of his death, March 26, 1901.

To Mr. Campbell should be given a very large measure of credit for the splendid success and commanding position which came to the bank during the thirty-six years of his wise, prudent, and faithful management of its affairs.

Ephraim Leach was elected vice president and continued to hold that office until January, 1901, when he voluntarily retired, having disposed of his bank stock. Mr. Leach, however, continued to take a very active interest in the success of the bank up to the time of his death, which occurred October 19, 1914.

Mr. John H. Campbell served the bank faithfully and efficiently as director and was a member of its most important committees from the organization of the bank until the time of his death, which occurred October 25, 1886.

Mr. Perry Munson was a very enthusiastic spirit in the management of the affairs of the bank from its organization until he was forced to retire because of ill health. Mr. Munson died December 30, 1893.

Mr. James Jamison, as a director and legal advisor, was a powerful influence in the affairs of the bank during the early days of its history.

P. C. Wilcox was elected cashier November 24, 1865. The banking institution owned by P. C. Wilcox, together with the good-will thereof, was purchased for a small sum of money and Mr. P. C. Wilcox bound himself not to enter the banking business again in Independence within two years.

The bank opened for business November 29, 1865, in the little frame building owned by P. C. Wilcox on the south side of Main Street on the ground near where W. C. Littlejohn's shoe store is now located, and where it continued to do business for something more than a year, when the bank was then moved to the north side of Main Street in a two-story frame building purchased of Perry Munson, on the ground now occupied by M. Assmus & Son.

Steps were soon taken looking towards the erection of a permanent banking home and about the year 1872 the bank moved into its present home, having built a substantial and commodious block in conjunction with Mr. E. W. Purdy, at a cost of about twenty thousand dollars. Great care was taken to make this building substantial in every way: the massive vault erected of stone slabs with a chrome steel door and the building in general, is a monument to the enterprise and judgment of those who had the work in charge; R. Campbell, E. Leach and Perry Munson, being the building committee.

The following is a copy of the first report of the bank made January 10, 1866:

Capital stock, present par value.....	\$ 48,645.00
Due to banks .....	13,210.13
Due to depositors .....	29,554.93
Notes in circulation .....	20,000.00
Expenses, etc. ....	810.93
Profits and loss .....	1,128.29
	<hr/>
	\$113,344.28

#### Assets

United States bonds, present value.....	\$ 48,525.00
Interest account on gold bearing bonds.....	681.36
Due from banks .....	31,729.90
Due from depositors .....	310.05
Bills receivable .....	14,289.91
Personal property (bank furniture) .....	1,121.64
P. C. Wilcox, cash in transit.....	2,000.00
Cash on hand .....	14,285.97
Revenue stamps .....	145.99
Interest on 6 per cent notes.....	134.09
Interest on coupons .....	120.37
	<hr/>
	\$113,344.28

On April 23, 1866, Mr. Ephraim Leach tendered his resignation as teller of the bank and was paid \$300 for his service up to date. He was given a vote of thanks for his industry while in office. At this meeting Mr. H. P. Browne was appointed teller of the bank. The name of Carlos Wilcox also appears in the minutes of this meeting in which he is mentioned as clerk in the bank.

The report of the bank at this time indicates that the bank had been doing very well indeed, as its assets had increased \$45,000 and on June 25 of the same year the first dividend of 6 per cent was declared on the capital stock of \$50,000.

Mr. C. D. Jones entered the employment of the bank as clerk April 16, 1866, and was subsequently promoted to the position of bookkeeper and teller, leaving the bank December 31, 1869, to enter business for himself. March 10, 1903, Mr. Jones was elected a director of the bank and continues to hold that relationship at the present time.

In January, 1867, Mr. P. C. Wilcox tendered his resignation as cashier, and Horatio P. Browne succeeded to that office, which position was held by Mr. Browne until his voluntary resignation, July 1, 1882.

Mr. Browne was a very popular officer and highly regarded by the management of the bank. He afterwards became associated with a bank in Minneapolis, where he passed away some years ago.

In April, 1868, occurred the death of P. C. Wilcox and of Albert Clarke, both splendid, manly men and very highly regarded.

In January, 1869, Mr. H. A. King and Mr. Z. Stout were elected directors to succeed those removed by death. Mr. H. A. King continued to serve in the capacity of director until January 13, 1880, when he resigned as director and removed to Florida, where he afterwards died.

Mr. Z. Stout continued as director for two years until January, 1871, at which time he voluntarily retired from the directorate of the bank. However, in April, 1901, Mr. Stout again accepted the office of director, which position he continued to hold until the time of his death, February 24, 1910, having served the bank well and acceptably as president from April 2, 1901, to June 1, 1903, and relinquishing the office of president on his own motion and much to the regret of his associates in the bank as well as our citizens generally.

The capital stock of the bank at the time of its organization was \$50,000, and on September 29, 1870, resolutions were adopted increasing the capital stock to \$100,000, and on October 8, 1870, a stock dividend of 40 per cent was declared.

In January, 1871, Mr. Jed Lake was elected director of the bank and January 18, 1909, was elected vice president, in which capacity he served the bank with fidelity and ability until his death, June 7, 1914.

Mr. George B. Warne entered the employment of the bank some time in the year 1869, and was elected teller in 1873; this being about the time when Mr. Thomas J. Marinus served the bank in the capacity of bookkeeper faithfully and acceptably for a number of years.

Mr. George B. Warne, having been elected county auditor in January, 1878, resigned, returning to the service of the bank in 1882, when he was elected cashier. Mr. Warne by his engaging personality and sterling worth proved to be a very valuable officer, resigning his position as cashier in 1888 to enter a bank in Chicago.

In January, 1878, Mr. George L. Eddy was elected teller, which position he continued to occupy until 1882, when he resigned to move to Chicago.

Mr. W. G. Donnan was elected director June 27, 1878, taking the place of James Jamison. Mr. Donnan continued to serve as director, occupying important positions on various committees until he was elected president, May 29, 1903, in which capacity he showed devotion to the interests of the bank and

signal ability in the discharge of heavy responsibilities resting upon him, and continued as president until the time of his death, December 5, 1908.

Mr. Carman N. Smith, who afterwards studied law and moved to Minneapolis, was the bookkeeper in the bank in the '70s, as was also Mr. Will Baker, who left the bank to enter business in Chicago.

In the year 1878 Mr. W. W. Donnan entered the employment of the bank and was subsequently promoted to bookkeeper, teller and cashier, serving the bank well and faithfully for more than twenty odd years, up to the time of his sickness, which compelled him to retire from active work in the spring of 1901.

On retiring from the active duties as cashier, Mr. Donnan was elected as one of the directors of the bank, which position he continued to hold until January 10, 1906, when he was compelled to relinquish the duties of the office because of the progress of the malady which had laid hold upon him and which terminated fatally November 21, 1906.

The rare loyalty and faithfulness with which Mr. Donnan served this bank, as well as the many customers with whom he came in contact, is a monument which any man might well be proud to leave and a heritage which is very precious to his many friends and admirers.

In January, 1880, Mr. L. V. Tabor was elected director and in 1901 was elected a vice president, and continued to serve the bank faithfully and well until his removal to California on account of his declining health. Mr. Tabor departed this life October 21, 1909.

About 1880 Mr. R. M. Campbell, eldest son of Richard Campbell, entered the employ of the bank, continuing his services until a distressing affliction which nearly destroyed his eyesight, made it impossible for him to fill the official positions to which he would have naturally and easily succeeded. Mr. Campbell is at this time director and vice president.

October 27, 1884, the charter of the bank was renewed for twenty years, expiring October 27, 1904, at which time it was again extended for a period of twenty years.

Mr. Edwin Cobb was elected a director January 12, 1886, and by his careful, conservative judgment served acceptably until the time of his death, June 3, 1914.

Mr. H. E. Palmer, a successful and practical business man, was elected director January, 1901, and by his untimely death, May 11, 1902, the bank was deprived of his valuable services.

In June, 1902, the bank purchased a large, modern, manganese steel safe, the first safe of the kind to be put in use in this part of the state, and also, in the same summer, put in new furniture and fixtures.

Mr. Frank B. Cobb, now deceased, was for a time an employee of the bank; also Mr. Archer E. Clarke was for several years with the bank, later moving to California, where he died.

In recent years Mr. Henry L. Toman, now a prominent business man of Cherokee, Iowa, served the bank in the capacity of bookkeeper. Later Dr. Vernon W. Peck, now a prominent osteopathic doctor in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, held that position, followed by Lyman N. Bissell as bookkeeper, who served longer in that capacity than anyone else in the history of the bank, until called from the work he so faithfully and capably performed by the dread

messenger, May 10, 1910. Mr. Bissell was also an assistant teller for several years.

Mr. John N. Smith, now cashier of the Iowa State Bank of Hazleton, was with the bank for several years as bookkeeper, as was also Mr. George H. Jones, who severed his connection with the bank to associate himself with his father in business.

Mr. O. S. Rosenberger, now a well-to-do stockman living near Des Moines, spent a number of years of loyal service for the bank in the capacity of bookkeeper, retiring in 1906, and more recently Mr. Dale Thompson, now cashier of the Farmers Savings Bank of Robinson, Iowa, was employed as bookkeeper.

Mr. William E. Craney and Mr. John O'Toole both served the bank faithfully and well for several years, as did Mrs. Blossom Bissell Tschirgi, now of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Mr. Irving C. Tabor, one of the large stockholders of the bank, spent several years behind the counters of the bank and is now a successful business man of Corpus Christi, Texas.

Mr. W. G. Stevenson, now cashier of the bank, has been a member of the force since January, 1902, at which time he was elected assistant cashier.

M. A. Smith was elected director January 9, 1906; M. W. Harmon was elected director January 8, 1907, and vice president June 12, 1914; R. B. Raines was elected director and president January 12, 1909; R. G. Swan was elected director March 23, 1910; A. H. Wallace was elected director June 12, 1914; W. E. Bain was elected director June 12, 1914.

The following is a list of the officers and employees of the bank: R. B. Raines, president; R. M. Campbell, vice president; M. W. Harmon, vice president; W. G. Stevenson, cashier; J. M. Gemmel, assistant cashier; Arthur C. Barnell, Egbert E. Cole, Alma R. Miller, bookkeepers; Bernadine Bissell Webster, draft clerk; Edna M. Bantz, stenographer; Cecil C. Crew, collection clerk.

Below is a comparative statement of the business of the bank in periods of about ten years, compiled from the published statements to the comptroller of the currency.

1877

Capital, surplus, and undivided profits.....	\$159,698.05
Total deposits .....	114,716.20
	<hr/>
Total footings .....	\$319,414.25

Statement of the Bank, March 4, 1887

Capital, surplus, and undivided profits.....	\$172,520.21
Total deposits .....	210,925.41
	<hr/>
Total footings .....	\$405,945.62

## HISTORY OF BUCHANAN COUNTY

March 9, 1897

Capital, surplus, and undivided profits.....	\$187,955.91
Total deposits .....	343,052.65
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Total footings .....	\$531,008.56

February 5, 1901

Capital, surplus, and undivided profits.....	\$167,946.32
Total deposits .....	524,919.68
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Total footings .....	\$717,863.50

February 4, 1908

Capital, surplus, and undivided profits.....	\$ 214,484.89
Total deposits .....	794,749.69
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Total footings .....	\$1,060,234.58

March 4, 1914

Capital, surplus, and undivided profits.....	\$ 271,434.20
Total deposits .....	1,337,967.23
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Total footings .....	\$1,707,698.93

















